

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Tuesday 3 August 2021 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

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

CABINET MEMBERS

Horncastle, C.	Riddle, J.R.
Pattison, W.	Watson, J.G.
Ploszaj, W.	Wearmouth, R.
Renner-Thompson, G.	

OTHER MEMBERS

Flux, B.	Seymour, C.
Scott, P.	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Angus, K.	Executive Director of HR/OD and Deputy Chief Executive
Bridges, A.	Head of Communications
Hadfield, K.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Lally, D.	Chief Executive
Masson, N.	Deputy Monitoring Officer
McEvoy-Carr, C.	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services
O'Farrell, R.	Interim Executive Director of Local Services and Regeneration
Roll, J.	Head of Democratic and Electoral Services
Taylor, M.	Director of Business Development and Communities

Ch.'s Initials.....

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Dunbar.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 13 July 2021, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

19. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Dissolution of the Council's Partnership with Northumbria Healthcare

The report provided information about the planning taking place for adult social care and public health services affected by the decision of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to terminate the partnership between the Trust and the Council which had been in place since 2011, and about the proposed future model for these services (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A, along with the report of the Health and Wellbeing OSC circulated at the meeting).

The Chief Executive outlined the background for members to the current position and the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Children's Services detailed the immediate future arrangements for the services which would be affected.

Councillor Pattison asked about the exit arrangements with HDFT. Mrs McEvoy Carr advised that this would be a partnership arrangement not a contractual one and a twelve month exit clause was currently being looked. Councillor Pattison stressed the need for a seamless change in delivery of the service so residents could continue to be supported.

Councillor Watson asked whether officers were confident that HDFT could provide as good a service as that provided by Northumbria. Mrs McEvoy Carr replied that Harrogate currently had a Good CQC rating and Northumbria had an Outstanding rating, though these were both from 5 years ago. Some significant due diligence had been done with regional counterparts who had all been very positive regarding their service delivery. In response to Councillor Pattison, she advised that staffing would not change, and services would be delivered by the same people, hopefully enhanced with new ideas from the Trust.

Councillor Wearmouth commented that he would have liked more time to understand more about the background to the current position in light of recent information received and advised he would abstain from the vote.

The Leader commented that he was keen to make progress on this matter. He referred to the report from Health and Wellbeing OSC which had requested detailed financial information to be made available and for updates. He supported this and agreed with the points that no staff should be disadvantaged and there should be no operational changes.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet note that the Council's partnership agreement with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust will come to an end on 30 September 2021, at the request of the Trust as notified in March 2021;
- (b) Cabinet note that, while this was not the Council's preferred outcome, the dissolution of the partnership creates the opportunity to take forward the development of a new model of integrated working between adult social care and a range of NHS, Council and other services supporting people with long-term care and support needs in the community, and to integrate public health services more closely with other services, as described in section [4](#) of the report;
- (c) Cabinet note that the most appropriate viable option for the adult social care functions which were delivered by Northumbria under the partnership agreement is for them to be operated directly by the Council from 1 October 2021, and that planning is underway to prepare for the transfer of employment of the approximately 600 staff carrying out these functions;
- (d) Cabinet confirm that two smaller services which formed part of the partnership also transfer from Northumbria to become directly operated by the Council: the joint equipment loan service (JELS) and the "integrated well-being service" funded by the Council under its public health duties;
- (e) Cabinet note that arrangements are being made to ensure the continuation of the seamless delivery of services in relation to some specific teams where currently Council-funded and NHS-funded staff operate as an integrated team under a single management structure;
- (f) Cabinet note that detailed planning is taking place jointly with Northumbria officers to prepare for associated changes in areas such as ICT;
- (g) Cabinet note that planning work to date has identified both some potential additional costs to the Council and some likely savings, and

that it is not yet possible to provide a firm indication of the overall financial impact;

- (h) the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services be authorised to make any necessary decisions required to ensure that the transfer of functions takes place with minimum disruption to services and to staff, and without unnecessary costs, in consultation with Cabinet Members for Adult Services and Children's Services and with the Interim Section 151 Officer;
- (i) Cabinet note that a consultation is currently taking place about a proposed partnership with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) under which the 0-19 public health services currently operated by Northumbria HDFT would transfer to HDFT; and
- (j) the report of the Health and Wellbeing OSC be supported.

Councillor Wearmouth abstained from voting on this matter.

20. REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING AND FINANCE

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 on 30 June 2021 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B).

New Projects:

21.1 New Play Area – Milburn Park, Newbiggin:

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve a capital contribution of £50,000 towards a new play area in Milburn Park to be met from the Parks Enhancement Budget within the 2021-24 Medium Term Financial Plan.

21.2 Tynedale House Fire Door Replacement:

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the proposal to replace the Fire Doors at Tynedale House in Blyth at a cost of £373,250 to be funded from Adult Services Community Capacity Grant within the Council's 2021-24 Medium Term Financial Plan.

21. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

(a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and

(b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

Agenda Item	Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A
8	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
AND	The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure public interest in disclosure because disclosure could adversely affect the business reputation or confidence in the person/organisation, and could adversely affect commercial negotiation.

22. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND S151 OFFICER, AND DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITIES

Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd – Acquisition of Shares and Update on progress and governance

The report provided a summary of the position of Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd (NEHL) and its initial subsidiary company Northumbria Integrated Consultancy Ltd (NIC), sought authorisation of actions required to execute the Council approved acquisition of shares in NEHL, highlighted areas where decisions or other approvals were needed and made mention of proposals for further associated subsidiary companies (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C, along with the report of the CSEG OSC).

The Leader advised that Scrutiny had raised a number of questions at their meeting and had made a recommendation to Cabinet that it should consider the responses to those questions before making its decision. Following discussion with the Chief Executive, he agreed that this information would be provided to Cabinet members and that the report be brought to a special meeting of Cabinet for consideration.

RESOLVED that the consideration of the report be postponed, that the further information detailed in the report of the CSEG OSC be provided to Cabinet members and the report be presented to a special meeting of Cabinet.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....