

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESTER-LE-STREET

Minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of the District Council of Chester-le-Street held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Chester-le-Street on Thursday 1 March 2007 at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillor R Harrison (Chairman)

Councillors:

G Armstrong	C Jukes
JW Barrett	GAN Kerr
LEW Brown	PH May
GK Davidson	DS Meek
L Ebbatson	JM Proud
P Ellis	D Rand
JJ Evans	R Richardson
M Gollan	IS Smith
SA Henig	A Turner
AK Holden	SCL Westrip
DM Holding	A Willis
A Humes	

Officers: R Templeman (Chief Executive), L Chambers (Director of Resources), T Galloway (Director of Development Services), I Broughton (Director of Community Services), I Forster (Assistant Chief Executive), C Potter (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), I Herberson (Accountancy Manager), M Walker (Head of Regeneration), P Stephens (Head of Housing Services), A Hutchinson (Head of Planning and Environmental Health), S High (Acting Leisure Services Manager), J Clarke (Principal Accountant – Housing) and C Turnbull (Democratic Services Officer).

Also in attendance were D Bryant (CPA Manager) and three members of the public.

135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Carr, M Potts, K Potts, W Laverick, D Stoker, S Barr and D Robson.

136 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 24 JANUARY 2007

It was proposed by Councillor C Jukes and seconded by Councillor A Turner that the minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of the District Council held 24 January 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the meeting held 24 January 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.”

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

137 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no requests under the Council’s Public Speaking Scheme.

138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Councillors S Henig and C Jukes declared personal interests in item no. 15 on the agenda as it related to Selby Cottage.

Councillor A Willis declared personal interests in items nod. 16, 20 and 21 as a Council house tenant and member of a Parish Council.

Councillors AK Holden, G Armstrong, JW Barrett, D Rand, IS Smith, A Turner, SWCL Westrip, C Jukes A Humes and DS Meek declared personal interests in items nod. 20 and 21 as members of Parish Councils.

139 REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD 11 JANUARY 2007

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the report of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 11 January 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, be accepted.”

140 REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD 13 FEBRUARY 2007

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the report of the Special Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 13 February 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, be accepted.”

141 REPORT FROM LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Key Decisions

The Leader advised of the Key Decisions taken by the Executive on 9 February 2007 as follows: -

‘Disposal of 5 Middlefield, Pelton

That the disposal of 5 Middlefield, Pelton for refurbishment purposes be approved.

Land Matters

Land adjacent to Hermitage School and Gibside Shops

That the land in the ownership of the District Council, as shown in Appendix A to the report be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and that a joint disposal with Durham County Council, on the terms that it will maximise value to the District Council, be pursued.

That the Head of Regeneration be authorised to undertake an options appraisal for Gibside Shops, in consultation with the Housing Department and local residents and this be reported back to the Executive.

Land at Stella Gill Industrial Estate

That the land identified in Appendix B be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and be disposed of for commercial purposes.

That the two interested parties be invited to submit an offer for the land and the offer be submitted by way of an explicit tender process.'

Member Role Descriptions

The Leader advised that Member Role Descriptions had been distributed to all Councillors. They were the result of much of the work done by the Council in preparation for the Members Charter and close working with the Improvement Partnership NE. The descriptions would help to identify training needs and make best use of Members Support Assessments (PDPs). The descriptions for Members with special responsibilities also provided a benchmark for the performance which they could be measured against. The Leader added that in general the role descriptions were another addition to the toolkit that helped towards being good local advocates and councillors. They may also be helpful in explaining to the general public just what it is that councillors do – and don't do. They may go some way to meeting the democratic deficit we set out to reduce in 2003 and would certainly help as we roll out and expand upon neighbourhood management.

Forthcoming Events

The Leader advised of the following forthcoming events: -

Inlogov event sponsored by the Improvement Partnership NE – topics to be covered were relevant to the Council and its future plans. They included sessions on the White Paper; Partnerships; Community Leadership; Leisure Trusts; working with the voluntary sector and much more. (March 12-15). All Councillors were welcome.

European Initiative – the New Youth in Action Programme. A half-day event hosted by Sunderland City Council on March 7th. The aim was to promote active citizenship in young people. This tied in neatly with current work being

done with young people; such as the recently completed film made by and for local young people and preparations for this year's local democracy week in October.

The Leader advised that the latest issue of Members Update included an invitation to join in a tour of the District on April 19th. This would be an opportunity to see what Councillors have achieved during their term of office.

In conclusion, the Leader said that Councillors might have noticed that the previous week the Audit Commission announced that NE councils were the best performing in the country for the 3rd year running. She expressed the hope that it would not be too long before we could officially raise that standard even higher. She took the opportunity to thank all Members and Officers who contributed time, energy and good humour to the inspection that week.

142 REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

a) Finance and Leisure

Councillor SA Henig advised that he would comment on budget proposals when introducing items nod. 15 and 17 on the agenda but in advance took the opportunity to thank all Members and Officers for all their hard work as part of what was a four month process.

Community Chest 2006/7

Councillor Henig advised that the Community Chest Awards Scheme had continued during the year with a number of small awards during 2006/7 to eight organisations. The average award was £500 with 8 grants agreed from a total of 20 applications. More than £25,000 had been awarded to community organisations throughout the District since the scheme was established in 2004.

Leisure Centre Crèche

Councillor Henig reported that the crèche at the Leisure Centre had an OFSTED inspection in late 2006 and had been received a 'good' rating with informal feedback suggesting it was very close to 'outstanding'.

Football at Riverside

Councillor Henig reported that Hartlepool United FC had been using the facilities at Riverside for almost three years, in recent months primarily for their youth team. Darlington FC had recently requested permission to base their entire squad at Riverside for the remaining 3 months of the season and possibly all of the next season. Councillor Henig advised that not only does this generate additional income but it also reinforces the profile of the site as a centre of sporting excellence and a regional sporting hub.

Play Areas

Councillor Henig advised that contracts to renew the play areas at Edmondsley and The Brooms, Ouston, had been awarded and completion on site was expected by early April. He reported that outstanding problems at the Merlin Drive site at North Lodge had been resolved allowing a new play area to be provided as soon as funding was available.

Councillor Henig advised that with these three sites, the total number of modern play areas passing safety standards would be more than 20 as compared with only 2 three years previously.

b) Environment

Councillor AK Holden reported on the following:

Environmental Services

The kerbside recycling continued to go from strength to strength. In January the highest tonnage of recycling was collected to date with a total of 318,690 tonnes of paper, glass and cans collected during the month. The combined performance for the ¾ year mark reached 21% and was on target to meet the annual target of 25%.

Councillor Holden advised that following a number of process changes, the average time taken to remove fly-tipping had been reduced from 3.54 working days to 1.29 working days and the services was amongst the highest performing Councils in the County.

The 2006 Residents Opinion Survey had shown that residents' satisfaction with the cleanliness of streets within the District had improved from 59% to 68%.

Planning Services

Councillor Holden reported that Development Control was on target to meet all three BVPI targets for the year. Residents' opinion survey on customer satisfaction showed an 8% increase to 85%. An enforcement protocol had been agreed by the Planning Committee and work was continuing with a view to obtaining Charter Mark status in 2007. The Building Control service continued to run monthly information seminars for customers and Council officers.

Environmental Health

Councillor Holden reported that Officers in the Environmental Health Team were preparing for the implementation of the Health Act 2006 that introduced a nationwide ban on smoking in the majority of public places including pubs and clubs. The Team was reviewing customer satisfaction procedures with

the intention to include services delivered in partnership and by other agencies such as the COSY scheme and the Home Improvement Agency.

Councillor Holden advised that a four month long programme to update the Council's procedures to regulate local business under the Local Authority Prevention and Control Act had been completed and all relevant businesses had a permit detailing the conditions they must operate under, and as a result a very significant improvement had been achieved against BVPI 216

c) Regeneration

Information Technology

Councillor C Jukes advised of some of the changes that had taken place since 2003:

- Residents are using the Council's web site to notify of a change of address.
- Increased take up in Direct Debit payment of Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Rents.
- Leisure facilities booked online
- Electronic Council Tax and Business Rate bills
- Prospective employees can apply electronically
- Hundreds of payments to the Council are made using the Council's web site
- Over 10,000 credit and debit payments have been made to the Council by telephone
- During 2006 there was an average of 8,000 visitors each month to the Council's web site
- The drive to meet Implementing Electronic Government targets had been part of the drive to ensure that 'back office' services enable greater access to 'front line' services.

Regeneration

Councillor Jukes reported that the Council had worked with partners in initiating schemes in Sacriston to improve the Front Street, to support the Community Group in business planning for a new Community Centre and developed a dedicated Resource Unit in Lilac House to enable the community to have improved access to a range of services. Using land use arrangements the Council enabled the development of affordable homes capped at a level that were examples of how to help people get homes at affordable rates. The Council was engaged with a firm of Community Consultants to regenerate Sacriston through a local development framework.

Councillor Jukes advised that in Pelton the Council had worked through land use and partners to deliver affordable homes for rent and to buy. Work was undertaken with partners to deliver improvements to the Front Street and with traders to improve shop frontages to retail units.

In Pelton Fell, the Council was working with partners to deliver an exemplar improvement scheme that has resulted in affordable homes for rent and to buy. The Council was working with the Community Group in business planning to deliver improved community facilities. Councillor Jukes added that the Council was a lead partner in establishment of the Pelton Fell Partnership Board that had a member of the community as Vice Chairman of the Board. As a direct result of the regeneration scheme in Pelton Fell over £20million of private investment had been brought to the village.

Councillor Jukes advised that the Council had worked with the Community Group in Grange Villa to develop funding for a new Community Enterprise that was thriving. Work had been undertaken with partners to improve the Front Street and enhance the area with housing, environmental and streetscene improvements.

Councillor Jukes reported that in the Town Centre the first key phase of the Civic Heart was nearing completion that would support the retail offer of the Market, provide a public events area and add a dramatic public art feature in the north end area of Front Street. The second phase of the Civic Heart scheme in relation to covering the Market and providing further artwork features was progressing both on time and within budget.

To enhance facilities for visitors to the Town, Councillor Jukes advised that Scrutiny Panel Members were reviewing the provision of toilets facilities.

Councillor Jukes advised that the Council would shortly deliver a major scheme of enterprise and innovation at the Mechanics Institute, on time and within budget.

A Masterplanning approach had been taken to connect the Town Centre with the Riverside and produce a robust development framework to bring forward proposals to enhance the whole of the Town Centre, and Councillor Jukes advised that over 50 Consultancies had expressed interests.

The Council was working with partners on the Economy and Regeneration Policy Group of the Local Strategic Partnership to deliver on specific targets.

Councillor Jukes advised that an essential part of the Regeneration Portfolio was the approach to economic development and a key element was how the Council worked with and through others on industrial land use. Councillor Jukes added that since 2003 a number of developments in the local economy had taken place at the Drum Lane Industrial Estate and the Council had been instrumental in leveraging in £1million to improve the road transport infrastructure at the entrance to the estate. Additionally, as part of the latest developments on the estate over £50 million of private sector investment had been attracted.

Councillor Jukes stated it was worth reflecting that in the previous two financial years well over £130 million of investment had been secured for the

whole of the District, and for every £1 invested by the Council over £30 of private sector investment had been secured.

Councillor Jukes advised that the Council's approach had been about enabling communities to be sustainable and to set out on the journey of sustainability. The approach had been aimed at developing a vibrant and beating heart in each community.

In conclusion, Councillor Jukes stated his view was that the Council was very much at the stage of moving on to a new and exciting phase in regenerating the District.

d) Housing and Community Safety

Councillor IS Smith stated that as part of delivering promises to the community, important and sometimes difficult decisions had to be made and these decisions were made by the Executive and Council. She advised that the Council's Decisions Annual Audit Report had identified that between November 2005 and October 2006, outside the regular agenda Items, the Council had considered 65 reports most of which were about housing and the corporate health of the Council. She added that during the same period and also outside of regular agenda items, the Executive had considered 100 reports 20% of which were considered to be Key Decisions, and 43% of these reports were about housing.

Stock Transfer

Councillor Smith advised that misleading information had been given out about rent levels should the stock transfer go ahead and as a result, the Council had written to all tenants correcting the misleading information. She added that the Government has published guidance on rents that aimed to ensure that by 2012 Housing Associations like Cestria Community Housing and Councils will have rents that are the same for similar properties in similar locations.

Councillor Smith advised that the Executive met on 9 February 2007 and after taking consideration of all the responses made by tenants and leaseholders, decided no changes were required to any of the proposals in the Formal Consultation Document. The Executive also agreed to proceed to Stage 2 – The Formal Ballot of all secure and introductory tenants. Councillor Smith reported that the Ballot formally commenced on 17 February 2007 and would end on 15 March 2007 and that to date a 62% response had been achieved with 3,990 ballot papers being returned.

e) Personnel and Communication

Human Resources

Councillor Westrip advised on the following matters:

- Details of staff pay scales had been circulated at the request of some Members
- Part 2 of Single Status including equal pay had been addressed
- Sickness absence – performance was good at 11.4% which was ahead of the BVPI target
- Work towards Investors in People Assessment was progressing well and on target.
- Basic IT training for Members
- Member Role descriptions

Organisational Development

Councillor Westrip reported on the following:

- 41 actions had been completed with 11 ahead of target dates
- Workforce development planning being embedded across the Council
- Introduction of 360 degree appraisals for Services Team Managers
- Methods for engaging all employees in organisational development
- 8 middle managers to commence the North East Excellent Managers Development Programme
- Proposals for the next Organisational Development Programme
- Further Action Learning Sets and Continuous Process Improvement

Customer Excellence

Councillor Westrip reported that funding had been secured within the 2007/8 capital budget to provide a web developer to build a unique Community Hub site for Grange Villa. It was expected that the project would start in May 2007 and take approximately 4 weeks to produce.

Councillor Westrip advised that representatives from community groups had been invited to an Open Day in April 2007 to see the Council's on-line services.

Telecommunications

Councillor Westrip reported that the new telecommunications system would go live on 12 March 2007. Training for Officer was underway and due to be completed by 8 March 2007.

New Reception Facility

Councillor Westrip advised that the tendering process for the new Reception facility in the Civic Centre had been undertaken and tenders were being evaluated.

143 QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Councillor PH May asked Councillor IS Smith, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety, if there was a minimum response level for the Stock Transfer ballot.

Councillor IS Smith advised there was a requirement for a 50% response rate and a 50% yes vote to enable the transfer process to proceed.

144 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN SUMMARY 2007

Consideration was given to a report from the Assistant Chief Executive seeking endorsement of the Best Value Performance Plan Summary 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated.

The Assistant Chief Executive advised that the Summary briefly sets out what the Council had achieved during the past year, some key performance data and what the Council planned to do in future. The document would be sent to all households within the District.

Councillor IS Smith proposed and Councillor C Jukes seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the Best Value Performance Plan Summary 2007 as appended to the report, be approved.”

145 REGENERATION STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Regeneration seeking the Council’s endorsement for the District Regeneration Strategy, copies of which had previously been circulated.

Councillor C Jukes introduced the report advising that the proposed Strategy was a first for the Council.

The Head of Regeneration advised that the development of the Strategy had involved a very robust process of consultation. The Strategy proposed a vision reflecting the collective aspirations of partners and five strategic objectives in order to achieve the vision.

Councillors SCL Westrip, D Holding, JJ Evans, L Ebbatson and SA Henig spoke on aspects of the report and proposed Strategy.

Councillor C Jukes proposed and Councillor JJ Evans seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the District Regeneration Strategy as appended to the report be adopted.”

146 SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

A report from the Director of Resources advising that Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty on the Council to consider all of its budgets, policies and plans from the standpoint of their potential contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder, was submitted, copies of which had previously been circulated.

Councillor IS Smith proposed and Councillor A Turner seconded that the contents of the report be noted.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the contents of the report be noted.”

147 2007/2008 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Resources that summarised the 2007/08 general fund budget proposals and Council Tax recommendations, copies of which had previously been circulated.

Councillor SA Henig introduced the report advising that preparation of the budget was now an all year round process.
Councillors SCL Westrip, D Holding G Armstrong and JJ Evans spoke on aspects of the report.

Councillor SA Henig proposed and Councillor C Jukes seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“1. That a net General Fund Revenue Budget for 2007/08 of £8.100 million be approved.

2. That a Band D Council Tax for 2007/08 of £176.06 be approved.”

Councillor R Richardson left the meeting at 7.20pm and Councillor G Armstrong left at 7.30pm

148 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2007/08 BUDGET

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Community Services and Principal Accountant (Housing) on the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2007/08, copies of which had previously been circulated,

The Director of Community Services introduced the report.

Councillor IS Smith congratulated the Housing Department for the prudential management of the Housing Revenue Account.

Councillor L Ebbatson congratulated the Principal Accountant (Housing) for the accessible way the accounts were presented.

Councillor IS Smith proposed and Councillor A Turner seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

- “1. That the probable budget for 2006/07 be approved.
2. That the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2007/07 as presented be approved.
3. That an average increase of £2.35 per week on rents, to an average rent of £49.38 per week based on 52 weeks, be approved.
4. That an increase of 20 pence per week on garage rents to £5.30 per week, be approved.
5. That energy charges increases of £0.60 for a bed sit, £0.60 for a flat and £1.80 for Warden accommodation per week, to £4.40, £6.20 and £9.10 respectively, be approved.
6. That a flat rate of £5.00 per week for the Careline Service as from 2 April 2007, be approved.”

149 2007/08 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Resources that summarised the 2007/08 General Fund Capital Programme proposals and detailing the recommendations of the Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated.

Councillor SA Henig introduced the report explaining the categorisation of the bids and that bids would not be pursued until finance was available.

Councillor SA Henig proposed and Councillor C Jukes seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the recommendations of the Executive as detailed in Section 9.2 of the report, be approved.”

150 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2007/08 – 2009/10

Consideration was given to a report from the Accountancy Manager seeking approval to a proposed Treasury Management Strategy for the period 2007/8 to 2009/10, copies of which had previously been circulated.

Councillor SA Henig proposed and Councillor C Jukes seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

- “1. That the Treasury Management Strategy detailed in the report be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Practice – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management provisions contained in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
3. That the schedule of counter parties detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.”

151 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Consideration was given to a report from the Accountancy Manager seeking approval to Prudential Indicators for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10, copies of which had previously been circulated.

Councillor L Ebbatson proposed and Councillor SA Henig seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the prudential indicators and limits as detailed in the report be approved.”

152 2007/08 COUNCIL TAX

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Resources on the 2007/08 Council Tax copies of which had previously been circulated.

Councillor SA Henig proposed and Councillor IS Smith seconded that the formal resolution as circulated, be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

- “1. That the revised General Fund revenue budget for 2006/2007 and the General Fund revenue budget for 2007/2008 as submitted to this Council Meeting be approved.

2. That it be noted that at its meeting on 21 December 2006 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2007/2008 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992: -

a) 17,126.18 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities' (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax base for the year.

b) Part of the Council's area:-

Parish of Bournmoor	680.83
Parish of Edmondsley	176.02
Parish of Great Lumley	1,203.37
Parish of Kimblesworth and Plawsworth	501.76
Parish of Little Lumley	522.25
Parish of North Lodge	897.93
Parish of Ouston	917.82
Parish of Pelton	1,793.98
Parish of Sacriston	1,492.37
Parish of Urpeth	1,108.91
Parish of Waldrige	1,476.61

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2007/2008 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

a) £30,179,760 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.

b) £21,890,351 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.

c) £8,289,409 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.

d) £5,085,101 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or relevant special grant increased by the

amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) Directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994.

- e) £187.10 being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- f) £189,000 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- g) £176.06 being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- h) Part of the Council's area:-
- | | <u>£</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Parish of Bournmoor | 193.69 |
| Parish of Edmondsley | 184.58 |
| Parish of Great Lumley | 191.43 |
| Parish of Kimblesworth and Plawsworth | 197.98 |
| Parish of Little Lumley | 187.55 |
| Parish of North Lodge | 196.11 |
| Parish of Ouston | 186.41 |
| Parish of Pelton | 197.80 |
| Parish of Sacriston | 197.17 |
| Parish of Urpeth | 194.10 |
| Parish of Waldrige | 190.96 |

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

i) Valuation Bands

	Council Tax bands							
PARISHES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Bournmoor	129.13	150.65	172.17	193.69	236.73	279.77	322.82	387.38
Edmonsley	123.05	143.56	164.07	184.58	225.60	266.62	307.63	369.16
Great Lumley	127.62	148.89	170.16	191.43	233.97	276.51	319.05	382.86
Kimbleworth	131.99	153.98	175.98	197.98	241.98	285.97	329.97	395.96
Little Lumley	125.03	145.87	166.71	187.55	229.23	270.91	312.58	375.10
North Lodge	130.74	152.53	174.32	196.11	239.69	283.27	326.85	392.22
Ouston	124.27	144.99	165.70	186.41	227.83	269.26	310.68	372.82
Pelton	131.87	153.84	175.82	197.80	241.76	285.71	329.67	395.60
Sacrison	131.45	153.35	175.26	197.17	240.99	284.80	328.62	394.34
Urpeth	129.40	150.97	172.53	194.10	237.23	280.37	323.50	388.20
Waldridge	127.31	148.52	169.74	190.96	233.40	275.83	318.27	381.92
Chester-le-Street	117.37	136.94	156.50	176.06	215.18	254.31	293.43	352.12

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2007/2008 the Durham County Council, Durham Police Authority and the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority for County Durham and Darlington have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<u>Precepting Authority</u>	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	<u>Band A</u> £	<u>Band B</u> £	<u>Band C</u> £	<u>Band D</u> £	<u>Band E</u> £	<u>Band F</u> £	<u>Band G</u> £	<u>Band H</u> £
Durham County Council	663.66	774.27	884.88	995.49	1,216.71	1,437.93	1,659.15	1,990.98
Durham Police Authority	90.48	105.56	120.64	135.72	165.88	196.04	226.20	271.44
Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority	53.52	62.44	71.36	80.28	98.12	115.96	133.80	160.56

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts at the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2007/2008 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Bournmoor	936.79	1,092.92	1,249.05	1,405.18	1,717.44	2,029.70	2,341.97	2,810.36
Edmondsley	930.71	1,085.83	1,240.95	1,396.07	1,706.31	2,016.55	2,326.78	2,792.14
Great Lumley	935.28	1,091.16	1,247.04	1,402.92	1,714.68	2,026.44	2,338.20	2,805.84
Kimbleworth	939.65	1,096.25	1,252.86	1,409.47	1,722.69	2,035.90	2,349.12	2,818.94
Little Lumley	932.69	1,088.14	1,243.59	1,399.04	1,709.94	2,020.84	2,331.73	2,798.08
North Lodge	938.40	1,094.80	1,251.20	1,407.60	1,720.40	2,033.20	2,346.00	2,815.20
Ouston	931.93	1,087.26	1,242.58	1,397.90	1,708.54	2,019.19	2,329.83	2,795.80
Pelton	939.53	1,096.11	1,252.70	1,409.29	1,722.47	2,035.64	2,348.82	2,818.58
Sacrison	939.11	1,095.62	1,252.14	1,408.66	1,721.70	2,034.73	2,347.77	2,817.32
Urpeth	937.06	1,093.24	1,249.41	1,405.59	1,717.94	2,030.30	2,342.65	2,811.18
Waldridge	934.97	1,090.79	1,246.62	1,402.45	1,714.11	2,025.76	2,337.42	2,804.90
Ch-le-St	925.03	1,079.21	1,233.38	1,387.55	1,695.89	2,004.24	2,312.58	2,775.10

6. That the Director of Resources be authorised to serve notices, enter into agreements, give receipts, make adjustments, institute proceedings and take any action available to the Council to collect or enforce the collection of the Non-Domestic Rate and the Council Tax from those persons liable.”

153 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

The Leader made reference to the high level of the Police precept and advised having been invited to a meeting with the Acting Chief Constable and Chair of the Police Authority.

The Leader advised being disappointed at the lack of consultation and invited Members to pass on to her their views on the matter.

Councillors JJ Evans, C Jukes, GK Davidson, SCL Westrip and JM Proud spoke on the matter.

The Leader, Councillor L Ebbatson proposed a Motion Without Notice in accordance with Section 12(d) of the Constitution, which was seconded by Councillor SCL Westrip, and the Council RESOLVED:

“ That this Council views with great concern not only the percentage increase in the Police Authority precept but also the way in which it has been communicated.

Firstly there was no prior consultation with this Council as the billing authority despite the consequences of any capping which might ensue.

Secondly we are extremely concerned at the potential loss of 300 police officers currently serving our communities; the impact of this upon future partnership working; community policing and neighbourhood management proposals, if the Police Authority cannot resolve its financial difficulties. We urge that this is not done at the cost of community policing and community safety.

This Council agrees that the Leader of the Council raises our concerns at a meeting with the Acting Chief Constable and the Chair of the Police Authority.”

154 COMMON SEAL

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the action of the Officer in affixing the Common Seal of the Council to the following documents be confirmed:

Lease in triplicate relating to Unit 9 Sacriston Industrial Estate
The District Council of Chester-le-Street (Off Street Parking Places)
Amendment Order 2007
Transfer in duplicate relating to 3 Primrose Gardens, Ouston
Form DS1 in respect of 34 Gray Avenue, Chester-le-Street
The Chester-le-Street (Ash Meadows No 1 Washington) Tree Preservation
Order 2006 in duplicate
Transfer in duplicate relating to 41 Seventh Avenue, Chester-le-Street
Transfer in duplicate relating to 9 Twelfth Avenue, Chester-le-Street
Form DS1 in relation to 4 Valley Road, Pelton Fell
JCT Contract in duplicate relating to internal and external modernisations –
Dunelm Property Services
JCT Contract in duplicate relating to internal and external modernisations –
Sunter Ltd
Transfer in duplicate relating to 7 Briar Close, Kimblesworth

Form DS1 in respect of 10 Conyers Road, South Pelaw
Lease in duplicate relating to 18 Cheviot Road, Chester-le-Street
Lease in duplicate relating to Unit 17 Sacriston Industrial Estate.”

155 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the next meeting of the District Council be held on Thursday 22 March 2007.”

156 MECHANICS INSTITUTE

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Regeneration informing that the Leader of the Council had made a decision using the urgent powers procedure as set out in Part 4D Paragraph 4 of the Constitution, involving the awarding of a contract for completion of the refurbishment of the former Mechanics Institute to Lumsden & Carroll, following Holly Construction entering into liquidation.

Councillor C Jukes introduced the report and commented that the speed of action in the matter demonstrated the advancement of the Council.

Councillor C Jukes proposed and Councillor GAN Kerr seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“1. That the urgent powers procedure invoked by the Leader of the Council under Part 4D of the Constitution, be noted.

2. That the actions taken by the Leader of the Council be endorsed.”

157 REGENERATION SERVICE RESTRUCTURE

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Regeneration seeking approval to proposals for the restructure of the Regeneration Service, copies of which had previously been circulated.

The Head of Regeneration introduced and explained the report.

Councillor L Ebbatson spoke of the involvement of the LSP in the Regeneration Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy. She valued the proposals detailed in the report but expressed her concern if any restructure impacted adversely on the level of support given to the partners in the LSP.

Councillor C Jukes proposed and Councillor JJ Evans seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the proposed restructure of the Regeneration Service as detailed in the report, be approved.”

The meeting terminated at 8.23pm