

## **EXECUTIVE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2003 at 4.05 p.m.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor A. Watson, Chair

Councillors W. Armstrong, Mrs. E.J. Coulson, J. Huntley, O. Johnson, D.G. Llewellyn, M.J. Malone and A. Taylor.

#### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Executive held on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2003 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **2. CARE AND REPAIR DERWENTSIDE – THE PROVISION OF A HANDY PERSON SERVICE**

Councillor W. Armstrong presented the report which outlined the limited handyperson service currently available within Derwentside, described proposals for a more comprehensive service within the Stanley Green Corridor and the aims for the remainder of the area. The report sought the support and eventual financial commitment of the authority to the development of this service.

#### **Options:**

- (1) Whether or not to introduce a handyperson service within Stanley Green Corridor at some point this year.
- (2) Whether or not to introduce the handyperson service across the whole of the district.

**RESOLVED:** that:-

- (1) the Council supports the development of a comprehensive handyman service within the Stanley Green Corridor;

- (2) the Council give a financial commitment to funding this service in Stanley Green Corridor in future years by way of the Community Development Fund and eventually mainstream funding;
- (3) the Council monitor the impact of this service with a view to considering introducing a similar service across the whole of the area.

**Reason:** Handyperson services are becoming an increasingly important element of Care and Repair agency services. They can have a significant impact on the lives of the client group at which they are aimed. The opportunity exists to develop a service in partnership with the Stanley Green Corridor Neighbourhood Management Partnership to have a real impact in the area. Such a service would be complimentary to the Council's priority objective of improving the care and support of older people.

### **3. DECLARATION OF LOCAL NATURE RESERVES**

The report identified five different sites owned by the Derwentside District Council that were either sites of Nature Conservation Importance or County Wildlife Sites that would benefit being upgraded to the statutory status of Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The Executive Director reported that a query had been raised at Scrutiny Board regarding the ownership of land near the Kyo Bogs site. In response, the Principal Planning Officer advised that the matter was under investigation and a written response be forwarded to Councillor Lavin clarifying this issue.

**Option:** Whether or not to designate the five sites detailed in the report as Local Nature Reserves.

**RESOLVED:** that: the following five sites owned by the Council be designated as Local Nature Reserves

- (a) West Wood, Allensford (including Temperley Wood and Acorn Woods).
- (b) South Stanley Woods.

- (c) Harperley Woods, Tanfield Lea.
- (d) Pontop Heath, Dipton.
- (e) Kyo Bogs, Annfield Plain.

**Reason:** English Nature have visited all of the sites and confirmed that they are suitable for declaration. All have natural interests of local importance and can provide areas for informal enjoyment of nature by the public, local schools and youth groups. All the sites will benefit from appropriate nature conservation management with the involvement of the local community.

**4. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

**5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor M.J. Malone, seconded by Councillor D.G. Llewellyn, that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act (as amended).

**6. UNITS 19 AND 20 TANFIELD LEA SOUTH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

(Exempt information in accordance with Paragraph 9).

Councillor Llewellyn presented a report, which considered a request from Rockworks Ltd. to acquire Units 19 and 20 Tanfield Lea South Industrial Estate, which are jointly owned by Durham County Council and Derwentside District Council.

**Options:**

- (1) Agree to the proposed freehold disposal of the properties.
- (2) Retain the freehold of the properties with a view to undertaking requisite capital works and seeking to let them.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council agree to dispose of Units 19 and 20 Tanfield Lea South Industrial Estate to Rockworks Ltd. under the terms and conditions as set out in the report.

**Reason:** The nature of the units concerned, their accruing maintenance liabilities, together with plans to consider disposal of older industrial properties, mean that it is appropriate to pursue freehold disposal. Furthermore, there are no lost revenue implications in this instance and freehold disposal provides the immediate opportunity to attract new investment and jobs to the District.

## **7. CONSETT MARKETS**

(Exempt information in accordance with Paragraphs 8 and 9).

Councillor Llewellyn presented a report which considered a request from Derwentside Market Traders Co-operative Ltd. to hold a Monday Market in Consett. The report also considered the future operation of Consett Markets in general. The Chairman requested that a further report on the issue of the deposit of an indemnity bond to cover the costs of any damage caused by market traders be submitted to a future meeting.

**Options:** For the request from Derwentside Market Traders Co-operative Ltd. to hold a Monday Market in Consett:

- (A.1) To refuse the request.
- (A.2) To grant the request unconditionally.
- (A.3) To grant the request with conditions attached.

**Options:** For the future operation of Consett Markets.

- (B.1) Seek to negotiate continuation of existing arrangements

- (B.2)
- (B.3) Undertake an operating review of Consett Markets.

**RESOLVED:** that:-

- (1) The Derwentside Market Traders co-operative Ltd. request for an additional market day be agreed under the terms and conditions as set out in Paragraph 3.3 and 3.5 (Option 1.3) of the report.
- (2) An operating review of Consett Markets be undertaken as detailed in Option 2.3 of the report.

**Reason:**

- (1) A trial operating period to be carried out by Derwentside Market Traders Co-operative Ltd. which could potentially enhance market trading and seeks to avoid further cost relating to cleaning and maintenance or clarify obstacles to this.
- (2) An operating review will allow options to be considered regarding the future operation of markets in Consett which could enhance market operations and net income to the Council whilst avoiding the expense of a fundamental review.

**8. DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT**

(Exempt information in accordance with Paragraph 8).

Councillor M.J. Malone presented a report which considered how the authority needs to identify and manage strategic risk within the authority. A new focus is now emerging for risk management, known as strategic risk management it involves identification and management of risks which exist in the form of barriers which may prevent or hinder the authority achieving its corporate goals; and also what level of risk does the authority need or is prepared to take in achieving those goals.

**Options:**

- (1) Carry out the exercise in-house
- (2) To appoint a consultant to carry out the initial exercise.

**RESOLVED:** that:-

- (1) the consultants Marsh be engaged to undertake Strategic Risk Management as outlined in Paragraph 3.11 of the report and a the cost as stated in Paragraph 3.12 of the report;
- (2) Management Team, in conjunction with Marsh, identify the key Officers and Members who should participate in the exercise;
- (3) the funding of the exercise is met from the Council's risk management reserve.

**Reason:**

- (1) The principles and approach to developing Risk Management in Derwentside was discussed at Corporate Management Scrutiny Panel on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2003. The meeting agreed the need to develop our strategy to incorporate non insurable risk and also that in the short term the appointment of consultants represented the most realistic and sensible approach.
- (2) Engaging consultants will provide the external expertise and support to integrate this process into our existing insurance and operational risk management arrangements and also help the Council to achieve its Corporate Aims and priorities.

**CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 4.20 p.m

**Chair.**