

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham on Monday, 30th January, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Pape (in the Chair), Crathorne, Dickie, Freeman, Hopgood, Howarth, Robinson, Simmons, Simpson, Walton and Wolstenholme

Also Present: Councillors Bell, Cowper, Hepplewhite, Kellett, Lodge, Marsden, Southwell, Stoddart, Syer, Taylor, Thomson, Turnbull, Walker, Wynn and Young.

469. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cummings.

470. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 12th December, 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

471. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman informed Members that following a request at the last meeting for more information on the risk assessment of the Swimming Pool a presentation had been arranged and would take place on Friday, 17th February, 2006 at 2.00p.m.

The Chairman informed Members that the next scheduled meeting of Scrutiny Committee arranged for Monday, 20th February, 2006 at 5.30 pm would be devoted entirely to looking at the budgets.

5.35 p.m. Councillor Freeman joined the Meeting

The Chairman informed Members that the Scrutiny Handbook currently being developed would be despatched in due course

472. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered Forward Plan, which was effective from 1st February, 2006, and had no comments to make.

473. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

A copy of the schedule indicating the decisions taken by Portfolio Holders since last Meeting is attached at Appendix A.

The Portfolio Holder Decisions had been noted and there were no decisions on which the Committee wished to comment.

474. CABINET DECISIONS – 18th January, 2006

The Cabinet Report had been noted and there were no items on which the Committee wished to comment.

**475. REPORT OF ECONOMIC SCRUTINY PANEL --
INTERIM REPORT LEISURE SERVICES – 5 YEAR PLAN**

The Economic Scrutiny Panel were requested to scrutinise the Leisure Services 5 Year Plan. The Panel decided that the topic be divided into four main categories; Stocktake, How do we Work with Young People?, Exercise Referrals and Accessibility. The Interim Report covered the first two categories of the topic.

The Interim Report was circulated to Members who commented that the report should be amended to indicate where the report is going and give additional information.

Resolved: (i) That the Interim Report of Economic Scrutiny Panel be submitted to Cabinet for their consideration.

(ii) That the amendments and additions suggested by Members of the Scrutiny Committee be incorporated into the final report on the scrutiny of this topic.

476. VERBAL UPDATE ON SCRUTINY PANELS

Verbal update were given by the Chairmen of the various panels.

477. SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR SCRUTINY

-- Standards Committee -- Terms of Reference

The Chairman informed Members that a request had been received from the Chairman of the Standards Committee via the Leader of the Council, for Scrutiny to consider the Council's decision not to extend the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee at the present time.

The Chairman requested Members instructions. A discussion followed and the issue was put to a vote. Committee Members decided by 9 votes to 1, that the issue was not an appropriate issue for Scrutiny to consider, and it was rejected accordingly.

Resolved: That Scrutiny Committee do not accept Standards Committee as a suitable topic for scrutiny.

-- Council Procedure Rules – Working Party

The Chairman again raised this issue with Members. After further discussion it was suggested that the Membership of the Working Party be increased to 12 Members (on a Politically Balanced basis of 6 Lib Dem Members, 4 Labour Members and 2 Independent Members) though Members requested confirmation that this arrangement would be appropriate.

The Chairman requested nominations for membership of the Working Party to be forwarded to Democratic Services within a week.

478. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Lodge Asked if Litter Picking could be put forward as a suitable future scrutiny topic. Councillor Wolstenholme suggested that the topic of Litter Picking be included in the current Environment scrutiny of Fly Tipping and Recycling.

The Chairman put Councillor Wolstenholme's suggestion to the Committee and Members agreed. The topic of Litter Picking was therefore allocated to the Environment Scrutiny Panel to be considered as an inclusion to the Panel's scrutiny of Fly-Tipping/Recycling.

The Meeting terminated at 6.05 p.m.

Chairman

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
30 January 2006
DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

Portfolio Member	Nature of Decision	Date
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 284). The amount due is in the sum of £3400, which is set by the Government as a compensation payment for personal upset caused by the compulsory displacement from his home. Recommend that payment is made but with a deduction of arrears first	28.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 286). The amount due is in the sum of £3400, which is set by the Government as a compensation payment for personal upset caused by the compulsory displacement from his home. Recommend that payment is made but with a deduction of arrears first	28.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 286). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as she was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that a payment of £1000 is made to the applicant	28.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 282). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment which is in the sum of £1,400.00 as he was displaced from a 3 bedroom house. Recommend a payment of £1,400 be made to the applicant	31.10.05
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Newton Moor Construction enquiring if the Council would consider granting an easement over Council land at Wylam Street, Bowburn. Recommend that subject to contract and conditions and the payment of Council's legal costs and Surveyor's fee and the reinstatement of the land and full indemnities to protect the Council's interests the application for easement be granted.	26.11.05
Councillor Southwell	Application in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 284). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment which is in the sum of £1,000 as she was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that a payment of £1,000 be made to the applicant.	28.11.05
Councillor Reynolds	An application received from H J Banks Developments enquiring if they can purchase an area of Council land	5.12.05

	<p>at Station Road, Ushaw Moor. The land is intended for use as part of a larger site for development as housing. They are in the process of securing adjacent land to this end.</p> <p>Recommend that subject to the applicant complying with certain conditions the application be approved`</p>	
Councillor Rae	<p>Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,141.00 divided as follows:- Julie Finley T/A Fanci Nails by Julie - £141 Carly Wilson T/A Carly Wilson - £500 Marie Carter T/A M C Communications - £500</p>	6.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>Application from Mr Shankland enquiring if he could purchase an area of Council land to the rear of his property which is currently used by the adjacent flats as bin storage. Mr Shankland intended to use the land for building a property across both on his current garden and the proposed area containing a number of flats fronting on to Hallgarth Street. This has been revised to smaller area and a proposed double garage and access.</p> <p>Recommend that the application be refused because of access rights etc.</p>	8.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>Application received from Mr Pollin enquiring if he could purchase an area of Council land adjacent to his property for use as additional parking.</p> <p>Recommend that the application be refused because of access rights etc.</p>	8.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>Application received from Miller Homes Ltd, North East Region enquiring whether the Council would allow occupation of land at Bedale Close, Belmont. Miller Homes Ltd intends to use the land as a site compound for the duration of the site development.</p> <p>Recommend the application be refused for covenant and access reasons</p>	9.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	<p>To consider an application by Haslam Homes Ltd to occupy an area of land adjoining the Durham Villages Regeneration Site at Carr Avenue Brandon for use as a compound. Recommended to approve the application by Haslam Homes Ltd as a site compound for a period of 18 months and a licence fee of £50. Access to the site must be taken across the adjoining DVR site and not over open land to the north and west of the compound area.</p>	16.12.05
Councillor Southwell and Councillor Wynn	<p>Application received in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 283). The applicant currently has arrears of £720.14. the amount due is in the sum of £3400. Recommended to deduct the arrears from the final payment.</p>	15.12.05
Councillor Southwell	<p>Application has been made in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (ref 283) The applicant has asked for the fixed payment which is in the sum of £1000 as he was displaced from a one</p>	13.12.05

	bedroom bungalow. Recommended that the payment be made	
Councillor Wynn and Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of home loss payment as a result of the council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 287) The applicant has rent arrears of £136.51. The amount due is in the sum of £3400. Recommended to deduct the arrears from the payment of £3400.	17.12.05
Councillor Southwell	An application has been made in respect of a disturbance allowance as a result of the council compulsorily being displaced from his home (Ref 287). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as she was displaced from a one bedroom bungalow.	6.12.05
Councillor Reynolds	Appropriation of sites at the rear of Falkous Terrace and Front Street, Witton Gilbert and held under the Local Government Act 1972 under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990	14.12.05
Councillor Reynolds & Local Ward Members	Concerns regarding 1 Maple Court, Brandon and the occupant storing building materials on Council owned land. Occupant has submitted an application to erect scaffolding and temporarily occupy the Council land. Recommend that the Licence be granted for Mr Thomas to erect scaffolding and to temporarily occupy the land	14.12.05
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of home loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 285). The amount due is in the sum of £3,400. Recommend that a payment of £3,400 be made to the applicant.	22.12.05
Councillor Southwell & Councillor Wynn	Application received in respect of Home Loss Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the application from his home (Ref 288). The applicant has rent arrears of £448.41. The amount due is in the sum of £3400. Recommend that arrears be deducted from the payment of £3400	5.1.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 288). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as he was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that payment of £1000 be made.	4.1.05
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Haslam Homes Limited to occupy an area of land adjoining the Durham Villages Regeneration site at Carr Avenue, Brandon for use as a compound. Recommend approval of the application for a period of eighteen months and at a Licence Fee of £50. Access to the compound area must be taken across the adjoining DVR site and not over open land to the north and west of the compound area.	16.12.05
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of Home Loss Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 289). The amount due is	5.1.06

	in the sum of £3400. Recommend payment of £3400 be made to the applicant	
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 289). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1000 as he was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow. Recommend that payment of £1000 be made.	5.1.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 285). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1200 as he was displaced from a two bedroom house. Recommend that a payment of £1200 be made to the applicant	22.12.05
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,305.50 divided as follows:- Sarah Sheehan T/A Shiny Happy People - £305.50 Nurul Aini Tajuddin T/A Everyday English (EVE) - £500 Trevor Hughes T/A TH Bathroom Fitting - £500 Approve payment of £1,305.50	17.1.06
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000.00 divided as follows:- Michelle Ashworth T/A Sourcetec - £500 Nicola Oates/Pat Clark T/A Dunelm Sanctuary - £500 Approve payment of £1,000	17.1.06
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £482 from Steven Dent T/A Steve's School of Motoring Approve payment of £482	17.1.06
Councillor Rae	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £500 from Amanda Capes T/A Amanda Capes. Approve payment of £500	17.1.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 273). Recommend payment of £2,867.74 be made to applicant	11.1.06