

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Tuesday, 18th April, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Pape (in the Chair)
and Councillors Crathorne, Cummings, Freeman, Hopgood, Howarth, Robinson, Simpson, Walton and Wolstenholme.

Also Present: Councillors: Carr, Gibbon, Kellett, Marsden, Moderate, Norman, Smith and Thomson

603. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dickie and Simmons

604. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of 6th March, 2006, were confirmed as a correct record.

605. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman remarked that Portfolio Holder decisions had been numbered purely for the purpose of Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman asked Members for their views regarding a possible pilot scheme to be carried out by Scrutiny in relation to the Members Online initiative. Members were informed that only Committee or Panel Members would receive hard copies of agenda and related reports. None members would be able to view reports on the intranet and download if required. After some discussion Members were undecided as to whether to pursue this at the present time.

606. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, which was effective from 1st March, 2006, and Councillor Howarth informed Members that she would contact the Head of Housing Services to request an update on Supporting People/Value Improvement Programme.

607. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

Members requested further information on Portfolio Decision no 2 relating to the nature of the business.

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

608. CABINET DECISIONS 5th April, 2006

Councillor Howarth requested that further information on the item submitted to Cabinet by Head of Housing Services relating to the Review of the Allocations Policy be presented to the Community Services Scrutiny Panel. The Community Services Scrutiny Panel had previously reviewed the Allocations Policy and the Panels report and its recommendations had been accepted by Cabinet in May, 2005.

The Committee agreed that a presentation be given to the Community Services Scrutiny Panel.

609. REPORTS OF COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

- Review of Council House Repairs

Community Services Scrutiny Panel reviewed the Scrutiny Council House Repairs as agreed at their September 2005 meeting. A Copy of the report had been circulated to Members.

Members discussed recommendation number 3, under the sub-heading, "Re-Let Times", which read

" That Cabinet reviews the option of discontinuing the DLO as soon as possible"
Councillor Crathorne and Councillor Cummings requested that their grave concern at this recommendation be recorded. After further consideration it was

Recommended: (i) That recommendation 3, under the sub-heading "Re-Let Times" be removed from the report.
(ii) That subject to the above amendment the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

- Review of Decent Homes Standard

Community Services Scrutiny Panel reviewed the Scrutiny of the Decent Homes Standard. The Scrutiny was originally carried out 2004 after which a review date was set as March 2006. A copy of the report had been circulated to Members.

Recommended: That the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

- Report of Playing Pitch Strategy

Community Services Scrutiny Panel had been tasked with scrutinising the Playing Pitch Strategy. A report had been circulated to Members.

Recommended: That the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

610. REPORT OF POLICY SCRUTINY PANEL

Policy Scrutiny Panel had been tasked with Scrutinising the Applications Procedure for the Flourishing Communities Fund. A copy of the report had been circulated to Members.

Recommended: That the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

611. VERBAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS FROM SCRUTINY PANELS

The Chairmen of the various Scrutiny Panels gave verbal reports on the progress of their respective Scrutiny topics for the information of Members.

612. ALLOCATION TOPICS FOR SCRUTINY

The undermentioned topic had been accepted as a suitable topic for Scrutiny at the November 2005 meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

- Parish Council Relations

It was agreed that the topic be allocated to the Policy Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

Meeting terminated at 6.05pm

Chairman

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18 April 2006
DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

Portfolio Member	Nature of Decision	Date
Councillor Holland	Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1500 divided as follows:- Wayne Seymour T/A Seymour Maintenance - £500 Jamie Gilchrist T/A Reliable Roofing - £500 Frances Thirlaway T/A Frances Thirlaway Fine Art - £500 Recommendation approval of grant	17. 2.06
Councillor Rae	Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000 divided as follows:- Tracey Louise Butterfield of 24 Holly Park, Brandon - £500 Wilf Richards T/A Abundant Earth - £500 Recommendation approval of grant	23.2.06
Councillor Holland	Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000 divided as follows:- Diane Lynn T/A Pawz - £500 Justin Cockburn T/A 33design - £500 Recommendation approval of grant	21.2.06
Councillor Wynn & Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Home Loss payment of £3,400 as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the application from his home (Ref 292). Approve payment of £3,400 after deducting rent arrears of £51.06p	23.2.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance payment of £1,000 as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his one bedroom bungalow (Ref 292) Approve payment of £1,000 to applicant	21.2.06
Councillor Jackson	Application to enter into Contract with Colt International Limited for the provision of Louvres at Gala Theatre Recommend Contract be entered into	27.2.06
Councillor Reynolds	Agreement as to which Members should attend one of the Royal Garden Parties 2006. Recommend that Councillors Van Zwanenberg and Walton be nominated to attend	1.3.06
Councillor Holland	Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £500 from Kelly Robson T/A Salon 49 Recommendation to approve Grant	3.3.06
Councillor Woods & Councillor Walton	Application received from Mr Farrell of 47 Jubilee Crescent, Sherburn Hill for Licence to occupy land at the rear of Jubilee Crescent for purposes of grazing ponies Recommend approval of Licence be granted	6.3.06
Councillor Wynn	Application from Durham Samaritans for financial assistance. Recommend support of application and offer £1,000	1.3.06

Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr Buck to purchase land to the rear of the Queen's Head Public House, Ludworth for use as additional garden and construction of a garage Recommend that application be approved subject to certain conditions	6.3.06
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr Lennox to purchase land to the rear of his business at Ludworth Post Office to enable him to erect a large garage for additional storage. Recommend that application be approved subject to certain conditions	6.3.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Home Loss Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 293) Recommend approval of payment of £3,400 to the applicant	7.3.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 293). Recommend approval of payment of £1,000 to the applicant as he was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow	7.3.06
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr & Mrs Robinson of 27 Front Street, Broompark enquiring whether the Council would grant vehicular access over land adjacent to their property for construction initially, then access to a new property thereafter. Recommendation that approval be given subject to certain conditions.	15.3.06
Councillor Holland	Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant for £1500 divided as follows:- George Edward Hall T/A JD's Private Hire - £500 Barry Bradley T/A MAB Recovery - £500 David Fisher T/A FT Accounting & Taxation Service - £500 Recommend approval of Grant	21.3.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 294) Recommend approval of payment of £3,400 to the applicant	17.3.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 294) Recommend approval of payment of £1,000 to the applicant as she was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow	17.3.06
Councillor Wynn	Application from Haslam Homes Limited to extend retrospectively a site compound licence at Woodside, Shadforth for the period commencing 6 December 2005 to 30 April 2006. Recommend approval of the application	16.3.06

Councillor Jackson	Application to waive Contract Procedure Rules under S.5.1(c), (d) & (e) to engage 'The Risk Factor' to undertake Risk Management Training Recommend acceptance of 'The Risk Factor' as the preferred provider for training	3.4.06
Councillor Jackson	Application to waive Contract Procedure Rules under S5.1(b) to allow the purchase of Risk Management Software from Wakefield MBC Recommend waiving above Rules to allow the purchase of the software	3.4.06
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr Cook of 32 Hillside Court, Spennymoor enquiring re the purchase of land adjacent to his property – Artful Ink, 7 Durham Road West, Bowburn. Applicant has previously purchased land and wishes to purchase a 1m strip to allow for maintenance of previous purchase. Mr Cook wishes to purchase another area but if this is not possible he would like to enter into Licence with the Council. Recommend approval subject to conditions	31.3.06