

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Monday, 29th January, 2007, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Pape (in the Chair) and Councillors: Crathorne, Cummings, Freeman, Howarth, Moderate, Robinson, Simmons, Simpson and Walton

Also Present: Councillors: Dickie, Gibbon, Hepplewhite, Kellett, Lightley, Marsden, Smith, Stoddart and Young

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hopgood and Wolstenholme

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of 18th December, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman remarked that Councillor Hopgood had submitted her apologies due to illness and asked that the good wishes of the Committee be passed on.

FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, which was effective from 1st February, 2007. The Forward Plan was noted and there were no items on which the Committee wished to comment.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

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

There were no items on which the Committee wished to comment.

CABINET DECISIONS 22nd January, 2007

The Cabinet report had been noted. The Chairman of Community Services Scrutiny Panel advised the committee that Cabinet had rejected a recommendation of the Community Services Scrutiny Panel Report on the Review of Council Garages but had otherwise agree the rest of the report.

The Chairman of the Community Services Scrutiny Panel advised the Committee that she had asked for a written explanation of why recommendation 4.(ii) had been rejected.

The Committee agreed the principle that some form of inspection should be in place, but other options would be explored by the Panel. Councillor Cummings asked if the Panel could also investigate the need to notify Ward Members of demolitions of garages in their respective Wards.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

A report was submitted to the Committee from the Council Procedures Working Party. Members of the Committee considered the report and its recommendations and agreed that the report be submitted to Council for adoption.

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT – REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS

Community Services Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of homelessness. Members of the Committee considered the report and noted its content subject to the addition of a further section relating to repeat homelessness. It was agreed that the report be submitted to the next meeting of Cabinet.

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.

ALLOCATION OF TOPICS FOR SCRUTINY

Members of the Committee agreed that the Scrutiny topic of Members Online be allocated to Policy Scrutiny Panel.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair advised the Committee that Panel Chairs and Vice Chairs should try to complete scrutiny topics where possible so that incomplete scrutiny topics would not be held over to the next Municipal year.

Meeting terminated at 6.00 p.m.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 January 2007
DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

| Portfolio Member | Nature of Decision | Date |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Councillor Reynolds | Application received from Miss S Doran of 50 Oatlands Way, Pity Me, Durham enquiring whether the Council would consider selling to her land adjacent to her property for use as garden only. Recommend that an area of 72 metres or thereabouts be offered to the applicant | 11.12.06 |
| Councillor Reynolds | Application received from Mrs Turner of 137 Bek Road, Newton Hall enquiring if the Council would consider selling land to the rear of her property which she intends to protect and maintain the current usage of the area. Recommend that the application is refused ¹ | 15.12.06 |
| Councillor Reynolds | Application received from Mr & Mrs Stephens of 37 Commercial Street, Brandon enquiring whether the Council would consider offering to them land around the edges of their property under Licence – Durham Centre for Education. Their application was subsequent to the area already being fenced off by the Stephens, upon receipt of a letter outlining their encroachment on to Council land inviting them to apply to buy the said land. The intended use is to secure the property, Durham Centre for Education from vandalism/criminal damage. Recommend the sale of the land. | 15.12.06 |
| Councillor Rae | Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £875 as follows:- Lee Clark t/a Clark Mobile Therapies - £375 Robert Challoner t/a RJC Decorating - £500 Recommend approval of the Grant as above | 11.12.06 |
| Councillor Holland | Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £2,872 as follows:- David Ward t/a D Ward & Son - £500 Ray Pirt t/a Rays Valeting Services - £372 Simon Hesletine/Stephen Hall t/a Halls Northern Ltd - £500 Paul Sibson t/a North East Counselling & Psychotherapy - £500 John Robson/Davwn Harrison t/a J D Mouldings & Castings - £500 Steve Vine t/a The Drum Loft - £500 Recommend approval of the Grant as above | 11.12.06 |
| Councillor Holland | Application received from Unit 16 Langley Moor Workshops for authority to renew lease. Recommend authorisation of the renewal of the Lease to Milburn Auto Repairs for a period of 1 year | 8.11.06 |
| Councillor Holland | Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000 as follows:- Fiona Duckworth t/a Fiona Duckworth Consulting - £500 | |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|----------|
| | Ken Ronson t/a Hett Private Hire - £500 Recommend approval of the Grant as above | |
| Councillor Reynolds | Application received from Miss J Ward of 36 Park Avenue, Coxhoe enquiring if the Council would consider allowing her to lease land to the rear of her property – approx. 71 sq. metres or thereabouts. Miss Ward currently leases a plot and now wishes to increase the size of her garden further. Recommend that subject to contract and conditions an area of 71 sq. metres or thereabouts be offered to the applicant on lease on terms to be agreed by the County Valuer | 3.01.06 |
| Councillor Woods | Application has been received from Mr Bankhead of Gateaux Direct enquiring if the Council would consider allowing him to place a catering trailer in the Market Place, Monday to Saturday between the hours of 7.00 p.m. until 3.00 a.m. Recommend the application be refused | 2.01.07 |
| Councillor Holland | Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant received from:- Jamie Dury t/a J D Sports Therapy - £500 Fiona Mawson t/a Anam Cara - £500 Andrea Townsley t/a Clever Cloggs Day Nursery - £500 Recommend approval of grants to:- Fiona Mawson - £500 Andrea Townsley - £500 Recommend refusal of grant to Jamie Dury | 4.01.07 |
| Councillor Thomson | Application has been made in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 306) Recommend a payment of £1,000 be made to the applicant as he was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow | 18.10.06 |
| Councillor Thomson | Application has been made in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from his home (Ref 309) Recommend a payment of £1,000 be made to the applicant as he was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow | 18.10.06 |
| Councillor Reynolds | Application received from Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council enquiring whether the Council would consider allowing them to place a refurbished Miner's Coal Wagon on an area of Council land under Licence. Recommend that the application be approved – on Licence | 7.01.07 |
| Councillor Rae | Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant from:- Lee Hosking t/a Kings Plastering - £500 Recommend approval of grant | 5.01.07 |
| Councillor Thomson | Application received in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 308) Recommend a payment of £1,000 be made to the applicant | 19.10.06 |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|----------|
| Councillor Holland | <p>Applications received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000 as follows:- John Dresser t/a City Carpet Care - £500 Joan Dawson t/a Joan Dawson Therapeutic Counselling - £500 Recommend approval of grant to applicants</p> | 11.1.07 |
| Councillor Holland | <p>Application received for Durham City Enterprise Grant of £3,500 as follows:- Paul Clark t/a Dig It Gardening Maintenance - £500 Trevor Ward t/a TAG Garage Doors - £500 John Charlton t/a Charlton Tiling - £500 Mark Stephenson t/a Sounding Board - £500 Laura Del Genis t/a Conscious Elegance - £500 Giancarlo Viglianisi – t/a JC Creative Solutions - £500 Devin McManus . - t/a The Mortgage Resue Company - £500 Recommend approval of grant to Paul Clark Trevor Ward John Charlton Mark Stephenson Giancarlo Viglianisi – totalling £2,500 Refusal of grant to Laura Del Genis Devin McManus – totalling £1,000</p> | 10.1.07 |
| Councillor Reynolds | <p>Application for authorisation to relocate Enterprise Agency to Millennium Place on a 3 year lease at CRC1 Recommend approval</p> | 21.12.06 |
| Councillor Reynolds | <p>Application received from Durham County Council enquiring if the City of Durham Council would consider allowing the location of a signpost into City of Durham land at Finchale Road, Framwellgate Moor, opposite the highway junction with Aykley Road showing location of Framwellgate Moor Primary & Nursery School Recommend that Subject to Contract and conditions that the application be approved</p> | 12.01.07 |
| Councillor Reynolds | <p>Application received from Mr Jackson of 48 Green Crescent, Coxhoe enquiring if the Council would consider selling to him land adjacent to his property. The land would be used for garden and it is landlocked. Recommend approval of sale of 164 square metres or thereabouts to applicant</p> | 12.01.07 |