

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON
HELD ON THURSDAY 5 APRIL 2007**

Present: Councillor C. Walker (Chair)
Councillors S. Bishop, B. Burn,
P.J. Campbell, A. Collinson,
Mrs. E.M. Connor, R. Crute, R. Davison,
Mrs. J. Freak, J. Goodwin, H. High,
A.J. Holmes, Mrs. E. Huntington,
B. Joyce, T. Longstaff, Mrs. J. Maitland,
Mrs. J. Maslin, Mrs. S. Mason,
D. Milsom, D. Myers, A. Napier,
Mrs. A. Naylor, C. Patching, G. Patterson,
G. Pinkney, B. Quinn, D. Raine, M. Routledge,
F. Shaw, D.J. Taylor-Gooby, R. Taylor,
R.J. Todd and P.G. Ward.

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 1 March 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 21 February 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

3. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGULATORY APPEALS PANEL** held on 6 March 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the decision taken, be noted, subject to the minutes being amended to state that Councillor P J Campbell chaired the meeting.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS THE COUNCIL'S BUDGETS** held on 6 March 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

5. **THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 8 March 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

6. **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services and Administration in relation to the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

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The Head of Democratic Services and Administration advised that the Independent Remuneration Panel met on 9 February 2007 to discuss and produce a report on the following issues:-

- (i) to consider the annual increase in basic and special responsibility allowances for 2007/8;
- (ii) to review the level of SRAs payable to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee following the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005;
- (iii) to review the level of SRAs payable to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee;
- (iv) to consider the inclusion of a provision within the Members Allowances Scheme specifying allowances payable for Members' travel abroad on Council business.

The findings and recommendations of the Panel were attached to the report as Appendix 1.

In considering the Panel's report, Members accepted the recommendations outlined in Section 5 with the exception of the proposed increase in basic allowance and special responsibility allowances of 3.6%. Members felt that the allowances should be increased in line with the National Joint Council's Pay Award for Local Authority Employees for 2007/8 which, although currently under negotiation, was expected to be around 2%.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) basic allowance and special responsibility allowances be increased in line with the National Joint Council's Pay Award for Local Authority Employees for 2007/8;
- (b) the level of SRAs payable to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee remain as at present (plus the annual increase in line with other SRAs) and be reviewed in February 2008 as part of the full review of Members allowances;
- (c) the level of SRAs payable to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee remain as at present (plus the annual increase in line with other SRAs) and be reviewed in February 2008 as part of the full review of Members allowances;
- (d) the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to include a provision in relation to the payment of allowances for travel abroad as set out in Section 4(iv) of the Panel's report.

7. **REVIEW OF POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS - THE SCRUTINY FUNCTION**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which detailed the review of the Council's scrutiny function undertaken by the Political Management Working Group and their recommendations for change in

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accordance with the mandate from District Council on 6 April 2006. A copy of the report had been circulated to each Member.

The Scrutiny Support Manager advised that at the meeting on 6 April 2006 the Council considered detailed proposals to review the Council's political governance arrangements, part of which was to review the scrutiny function.

As part of the review, the Political Management Working Group considered four options for a revised function, details of which were set out in the report. The Group agreed that the best option available was the retention of three Scrutiny Committees with a co-ordinating body, the Scrutiny Management Board comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Committee. Following considerable development work, it was suggested that the structure be modelled around the Executive Portfolios as follows:-

Community Services Scrutiny Committee - Liveability, Neighbourhood Engagement and Communications and Social Inclusion and Culture;

Regeneration Services Scrutiny Committee - Housing, Health and Regeneration;

Resources Scrutiny Committee - Resources, Improvement and Customer Services.

In drawing up the proposals, cognizance had been given to a number of the key issues identified in Section 3.4 of the report, particularly in respect of demonstrating the linkages between the work of the Scrutiny Committees and the Council's agreed priorities and objectives, ensuring a balanced and manageable workload between all Scrutiny Committees and providing a realistic challenge to the Executive.

Terms of Reference drafted for the revised Scrutiny Committees were attached at Appendix A, a list of the key service areas and strategies that would fall within the remit of the individual Committees at appendix B and Service Position Statements to be considered by each Committee at Appendix C.

The Scrutiny Support Manager highlighted issues arising from the Local Government White Paper and the Police and Justice Act 2006 which included a new initiative known as a Community Call for Action, details of which were given in the report. The Council would develop its own processes for dealing with Community Calls for Action once Government Guidance was published.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) three Scrutiny Committees be established, as detailed in Section 4.3 of the report supported by a co-ordinating Scrutiny Management Board comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Committee;
- (b) the proposed Terms of Reference, as detailed in Appendix A, be agreed and the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution, be approved;
- (c) appendices B and C listing the key service areas and strategies that would fall within the remit of the individual Scrutiny Committees and the Service Unit Position Statements to be reported to each, be noted;
- (d) information detailed within the report regarding the Local Government White Paper and the Community Call for Action proposals, be noted and

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further reports be submitted to Council when Government Guidance was issued;

- (e) the recommendations be implemented at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 17 May 2007.

8. TO SEAL DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED that the action taken in affixing the Common Seal to the following following documents, be endorsed:-

- 19465 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Heath Bryan Taylor and Jo Taylor (2) relating to 25 Calvert Terrace, Murton
- 19466 Agreement made between EDC (1) and Gladedale (Sunderland) Limited (2) relating to Land at Bessemer Road, South Hetton
- 19467 Licence made between EDC (1) and Gladedale (Sunderland) Limited (2) relating to Land at Bessemer Road, South Hetton
- 19468 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Gladedale (Sunderland) Limited (2) relating to Land at Bessemer Road, South Hetton
- 19469 Lease made between EDC (1) and The Hazelwell Centre (formerly the Haswell and District Community Association) (2) relating to premises at Windsor Terrace Haswell
- 19470 Release made between EDC (1) and Beazer Homes Limited (2) relating to 88 Beech Crescent, Parkside, Seaham - DU278603
- 19471 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) Stephen William Forster (2) relating to 5 Surtees Road, Peterlee
- 19472 Lease made between EDC (1) and Ian Robert Chamberlain (2) relating to 15 Buckingham Road, Peterlee
- 19473 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 71 Yoden Road, Peterlee DU 94161
- 19474 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 37 Trevelyan Place, Peterlee DU 91913
- 19475 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 2 Tamar Close, Peterlee DU 95940
- 19476 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Lorna Burnham (2) relating to 23 Thorpe Crescent, Horden
- 19477 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Tony Richardson and Dorothy Tyers (2) relating to 51 Liddell Terrace, Wheatley Hill
- 19478 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and The County Council of Durham (2) relating to The Graham Way,

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Seaham (In Duplicate)

- 19479 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between The County Council of Durham (1) and EDC (2) relating to Land at The Graham Way, Seaham (In Duplicate)
- 19480 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Anne Marie Middleton and David Middleton (2) relating to 63 Windsor Road, Seaham
- 19481 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Maureen D. Pattinson and Peter Pattinson (2) relating to 42 Bethune Avenue, Seaham
- 19482 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Maria Irene Wilkinson (2) relating to 22 Waveney Road, Peterlee
- 19483 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and June Frecker (2) relating to 23 Milton Grove, Shotton
- 19484 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and John David Oliver and Jessie Lena Oliver (2) relating to 158 Malvern Terrace, Seaham
- 19485 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Caroline Milburn and Allan Milburn (2) relating to 11 Quinn Crescent, Wingate
- 19486 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 8 Gloucester Terrace, Haswell – DU162044
- 19487 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Anthony Carl Burns and Avril Burns(2) relating to 2 Avon Road, Peterlee
- 19488 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Lee Johnson Allison and Lisa Allison(2) relating to 26 Eastlea Road, Seaham
- 19489 Deed of Release made between EDC (1) and Mr. and Mrs. Singh (2) relating to 120 Edenhill Road, Peterlee (DU118471)
- 19490 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Christina Robertson and Robert Frank Sedgwick (2) relating to 53 Basingstoke Road, Peterlee
- 19491 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and David William Johnson and Carol Johnson (2) relating to 56 St. Ives Place, Murton
- 19492 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Bryan Dobson and Vanessa Ann Dobson (2) relating to 40 Bude Square, Murton
- 19493 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and John Paul Cairnes and Victoria Leah Barrass (2) relating to 15

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Beaumont Crescent, Horden

- 19494 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Ian Campbell and Jeanette Louise Haffey (2) relating to 21 Maple Crescent, Parkside, Seaham
- 19495 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Marion Angela Marley (2) relating to 27 Williams Road, Murton
- 19496 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Barbara Jepson (2) relating to 17 Burns Close, Shotton
- 19497 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Martin Trewick and Kathryn Hornes (2) relating to 43 Ocean View, Blackhall
- 19498 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Jacqueline Hogan (2) relating to 34 Charters Crescent, South Hetton

JE/CB/COM/DIST/070401
30 April 2007