

**THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON  
HELD ON THURSDAY 8 MARCH 2007**

Present: Councillor C Walker (Chair)

Councillors B Bates, E Bell, S Bishop, Mrs G Bleasdale,  
B Burn, A Burnip, R Burnip, P J Campbell, A Collinson,  
Mrs E M Connor, R Davison, Mrs J Freak, J Goodwin,  
H High, A J Holmes, Mrs E Huntington, T Longstaff,  
Mrs S Mason, D Milsom, D Myers, A Napier,  
Mrs A Naylor, C Patching, G Patterson, W R Peardon,  
G Pinkney, B Quinn, D Raine, Mrs B A Sloan,  
D J Taylor-Gooby, R Taylor, R J Todd and P G Ward

**1 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer on proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the purpose of the report was to update sections of the Constitution relating to the exercise of delegated powers by Officers. At its meeting on 6 February 2007 the Executive had resolved to introduce new powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which required certain constitutional amendments to the delegations section.

Those pages to be amended were attached to the report and he had taken the opportunity to update certain other provisions where the Constitution did not accurately reflect current practice within the Council.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed amendments to the Constitution as set out in the report, be approved.

**2 SETTING THE OVERALL COUNCIL TAX FOR 2007/8**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services on Council Tax levels for 2007/2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

In accordance with section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Council as billing authority was required to set the overall Council Tax for 2007/2008 before 11 March 2007.

It was requested that in accordance with statutory provisions, consideration be given to the council taxes to be levied in each part of the District Council area for the year 2007/2008.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the revised revenue estimates for the year 2006/2007 and the revenue estimates for 2007/2008 be approved;
- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 8th March 2007 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2007/2008 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

a) **26,368.30** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year

b) Part of the Council's area

Parish/Town of:-

Castle Eden	<b>298.10</b>
Dalton le Dale	<b>516.40</b>
Easington Colliery	<b>1,401.80</b>
Easington Village	<b>739.30</b>
Haswell	<b>556.00</b>
Hawthorn	<b>190.40</b>
Horden	<b>2,233.60</b>
Hutton Henry	<b>495.50</b>
Monk Hesleden	<b>1,645.80</b>
Murton	<b>1,896.50</b>
Peterlee	<b>5,673.20</b>
Seaham	<b>5,337.60</b>
Seaton with Slingley	<b>411.20</b>
Shotton	<b>1,166.20</b>
South Hetton	<b>763.90</b>
Thornley	<b>647.10</b>
Trimdon	<b>372.90</b>
Wheatley Hill	<b>864.50</b>
Wingate	<b>1,106.90</b>

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

- (iii) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-
- a) **£106,060,160** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act
- b) **£85,328,763** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act
- c) **£20,731,397** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year

- d) **£12,105,127** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, (increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988) (Council Tax Surplus)
- e) **£327.15** being the amount at 3( c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year
- f) **£4,060,340** being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- g) **£173.16** being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates
- h) Part of the Council's area

Parish/Town of:-	£ p
Castle Eden	<b>191.61</b>
Dalton le Dale	<b>195.79</b>
Easington Colliery	<b>402.60</b>
Easington Village	<b>309.42</b>
Haswell	<b>243.30</b>
Hawthorn	<b>189.88</b>
Horden	<b>352.20</b>
Hutton Henry	<b>233.70</b>
Monk Hesleden	<b>313.29</b>
Murton	<b>320.15</b>
Peterlee	<b>381.17</b>
Seaham	<b>351.84</b>
Seaton with Slingley	<b>192.54</b>
Shotton	<b>254.62</b>
South Hetton	<b>252.36</b>
Thornley	<b>330.55</b>
Trimdon	<b>330.45</b>
Wheatley Hill	<b>296.36</b>
Wingate	<b>240.92</b>

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount as 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

l)

Part of the  
Council's  
area

Valuation Bands

	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Parish/Town of :-								
Castle Eden	127.74	149.03	170.32	191.61	234.19	276.77	319.35	383.22
Dalton-le-Dale	130.53	152.28	174.04	195.79	239.30	282.81	326.32	391.58
Easington Colliery	268.40	313.13	357.87	402.60	492.07	581.53	671.00	805.20
Easington Village	206.28	240.66	275.04	309.42	378.18	446.94	515.70	618.84
Haswell	162.20	189.23	216.27	243.30	297.37	351.43	405.50	486.60
Hawthorn	126.59	147.68	168.78	189.88	232.08	274.27	316.47	379.76
Horden	234.80	273.93	313.07	352.20	430.47	508.73	587.00	704.40
Hutton Henry	155.80	181.77	207.73	233.70	285.63	337.57	389.50	467.40
Monk Hesleden	208.86	243.67	278.48	313.29	382.91	452.53	522.15	626.58
Murton	213.43	249.01	284.58	320.15	391.29	462.44	533.58	640.30
Peterlee	254.11	296.47	338.82	381.17	465.87	550.58	635.28	762.34
Seaham	234.56	273.65	312.75	351.84	430.03	508.21	586.40	703.68
Seaton with Slingley	128.36	149.75	171.15	192.54	235.33	278.11	320.90	385.08
Shotton	169.75	198.04	226.33	254.62	311.20	367.78	424.37	509.24
South Hetton	168.24	196.28	224.32	252.36	308.44	364.52	420.60	504.72
Thornley	220.37	257.09	293.82	330.55	404.01	477.46	550.92	661.10
Trimdon	220.30	257.02	293.73	330.45	403.88	477.32	550.75	660.90
Wheatley Hill	197.57	230.50	263.43	296.36	362.22	428.08	493.93	592.72
Wingate	160.61	187.38	214.15	240.92	294.46	348.00	401.53	481.84
All other parts of the Council's Area	115.44	134.68	153.92	173.16	211.64	250.12	288.60	346.32

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section (5)1 of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

(iv)

it be noted that for the year 2007/2008 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting  
Authority

Valuation Bands

	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Durham County Council	663.66	774.27	884.88	995.49	1,216.71	1,437.93	1,659.15	1,990.98
County Durham & Darlington Fire Rescue Authority	53.52	62.44	71.36	80.28	98.12	115.96	133.80	160.56
Durham Police Authority	90.48	105.56	120.64	135.72	165.88	196.04	226.20	271.44

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3 (i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section (30)2 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2007/2008 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the  
Council's  
area

Valuation Bands

	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Parish/Town of :-								
Castle Eden	935.40	1,091.30	1,247.20	1,403.10	1,714.90	2,026.70	2,338.50	2,806.20
Dalton-le-Dale	938.19	1,094.55	1,250.92	1,407.28	1,720.01	2,032.74	2,345.47	2,814.56
Easington Colliery	1,076.06	1,255.40	1,434.75	1,614.09	1,972.78	2,331.46	2,690.15	3,228.18
Easington Village	1,013.94	1,182.93	1,351.92	1,520.91	1,858.89	2,196.87	2,534.85	3,041.82
Haswell	969.86	1,131.50	1,293.15	1,454.79	1,778.08	2,101.36	2,424.65	2,909.58
Hawthorn	934.25	1,089.95	1,245.66	1,401.37	1,712.79	2,024.20	2,335.62	2,802.74
Horden	1,042.46	1,216.20	1,389.95	1,563.69	1,911.18	2,258.66	2,606.15	3,127.38
Hutton Henry	963.46	1,124.04	1,284.61	1,445.19	1,766.34	2,087.50	2,408.65	2,890.38
Monk Hesleden	1,016.52	1,185.94	1,355.36	1,524.78	1,863.62	2,202.46	2,541.30	3,049.56
Murton	1,021.09	1,191.28	1,361.46	1,531.64	1,872.00	2,212.37	2,552.73	3,063.28
Peterlee	1,061.77	1,238.74	1,415.70	1,592.66	1,946.58	2,300.51	2,654.43	3,185.32
Seaham	1,042.22	1,215.92	1,389.63	1,563.33	1,910.74	2,258.14	2,605.55	3,126.66
Seaton with Slingley	936.02	1,092.02	1,248.03	1,404.03	1,716.04	2,028.04	2,340.05	2,808.06
Shotton	977.41	1,140.31	1,303.21	1,466.11	1,791.91	2,117.71	2,443.52	2,932.22
South Hetton	975.90	1,138.55	1,301.20	1,463.85	1,789.15	2,114.45	2,439.75	2,927.70
Thornley	1,028.03	1,199.36	1,370.70	1,542.04	1,884.72	2,227.39	2,570.07	3,084.08
Trimdon	1,027.96	1,199.29	1,370.61	1,541.94	1,884.59	2,227.25	2,569.90	3,083.88
Wheatley Hill	1,005.23	1,172.77	1,340.31	1,507.85	1,842.93	2,178.01	2,513.08	3,015.70
Wingate	968.27	1,129.65	1,291.03	1,452.41	1,775.17	2,097.93	2,420.68	2,904.82
All other parts of the Council's Area	923.10	1,076.95	1,230.80	1,384.65	1,692.35	2,000.05	2,307.75	2,769.30

3 **ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS**

In accordance with Section 3.2 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in part 4 of the Council's Constitution the Chair agreed that consideration be given to the following item of business, not shown on the Agenda.

**Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillors Mrs E M Connor, R Davison, B Bates and D J Taylor-Gooby declared their personal but not prejudicial interests**

4 **EAST DURHAM HOMES - REQUEST FOR USE OF RESERVES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Housing on a request from East Durham Homes for additional funding beyond the existing management fee and capital programme provision to enable the extension of the doors and windows replacement programme to Council homes across the District. A copy of the report had been circulated to each Member.

As part of East Durham Homes 3 star service improvement strategy the company had undergone significant changes as detailed in the report, some of which had resulted in a reduction in income. The lost income had been replaced through securing contracts for repairs and maintenance work with local Registered Social Landlords and EDH were currently in the process of preparing a workforce plan, reflecting the future needs of the company and this would prompt a further report to the Council.

In considering the medium/long term financial issues East Durham Homes had also taken the opportunity to review their planned maintenance and capital programmes and had brought forward proposals to increase the level of investment into Council homes during the 2006/7 and 2007/8 financial years through an increase to the doors and windows replacement programme.

The company therefore requested the release of £1m from HRA reserves to fund this enhanced programme. The Head of Housing and Director of Finance and Corporate Services had been consulted on the business case behind this proposal, details of which were set out in the report.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the proposal from East Durham Homes to invest £1m of HRA reserves into the external doors and windows replacement scheme, be approved with payment drawn down from valuation certificates over the course of the programme.