

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on Monday, 4th August, 2003 at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Watson, Chair

Councillors W. Armstrong, Mrs. E.J. Coulson, J. Huntley, O. Johnson, D.G. Llewellyn, M.J. Malone and A. Taylor.

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive held on 7th July, 2003 were agreed as a correct record.

24. MATTERS ARISING – MINUTE NUMBER 18 – DERWENTSIDE FESTIVALS 2003 PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Watson referred to Minute Number 18 and reported that although the previous meeting had agreed to go ahead with the Allensford Festival a subsequent objection from the Police on highway grounds had left the Council with no alternative other than to deny the Public Entertainment Licence. He also commented that although no accidents had been reported during previous festivals there was a need for improvements to that section of the A68 near Allensford and expressed his disappointment that road safety measures had not yet been installed. Ideally, he would like to see a speed limit and speed cameras installed on that stretch of the A68 and improvements made to the right hand turn to Pemberton Road the access to Allensford Picnic site. On the motion of Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor W. Armstrong it was **RESOLVED:** that a letter be sent to the Highway Authority and the Police requesting that action be taken to improve traffic controls on the section of the A68, near Allensford, in particular the right hand turn from the A68 to Pemberton Road the access to Allensford Picnic site.

25. MATTERS ARISING – MINUTE NUMBER 10 – CARELINE/CCTV JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Malone referred to Minute Number 10 and commented that partnership arrangements were not progressing as quickly as had been anticipated, he requested that Officers pursue the joint arrangements with Chester-le-Street District Council as a matter of urgency to ensure progress is made as quickly as possible.

26. LEISURE GRANTS REVIEW – FUNDING OFFICER POST

Councillor Taylor presented the report, which detailed the process undertaken during the Leisure Grants Review and the findings of the Member Panel, which had been set up to review grants and external funding within Leisure. The matter had been previously deferred to enable Scrutiny to debate and comment on the proposals. Executive Members commented that the minutes of the Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel needed to be circulated prior to any decision being taken.

RESOLVED: that the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive, with any comments made by Scrutiny to be incorporated into an amended report.

Reason: To enable the comments made by Scrutiny to be fully considered prior to the Executive making a decision on the issue.

27. FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2003/2004

Councillor Armstrong presented the report which summarised the performance of the authority in meeting the targets set out within the Food Service Plan 2002/2003 and sought Member approval to agree the Food Service Plan for 2003/2004.

Option: Whether or not to agree the Food Service Plan 2003/2004

RESOLVED: that the Food Service Plan 2003/2004 as detailed in the report be agreed.

Reason: The delivery of the Food Service Plan 2003/2004 is a necessary part of the Council's responsibilities in relation to food safety.

28. DERWENTSIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Councillor Taylor presented the report, which sought approval for:-

- (a) Prioritisation criteria for inviting NRF proposals;
- (b) a procedure for allocation of Year 2 under-spend, Year 4 and Year 5 NRF resources and
- (c) an appropriate timetable for the above allocations.

Option: Whether or not to agree to the procedures as detailed in the report for the developing and allocation for Neighbourhood Renewal funding.

RESOLVED:- that:-

- (1) the procedures as detailed in the report for developing Year 4 and 5 NRF Measures be agreed;
- (2) the procedure for allocation of Year 2 under-spend, Year 4 and Year 5 resources as detailed in the report be agreed;
- (3) the timescales for allocating resources as detailed in the report be agreed.

Reason: To enable a strategic approach to be developed to ensure objectives and outcomes are being delivered in line with the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

29. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Councillor Armstrong presented the report which gave an overview of the Repairs and Maintenance Strategy.

Option: Whether or not to agree the Repairs and Maintenance Strategy as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: that:-

- (1) the Repairs and Maintenance Strategy be agreed and used as a formal corporate document, which can be utilised to move the service forward;
- (2) every twelve months, progress reports will be made available for further consideration;
- (3) the document be publicised on our corporate web-site to allow the sharing of information and service improvement plans with peer organisations and service providers.

Reason: One of the main areas the Council will be judged upon during Best Value and Comprehensive Performance Assessment will be the

ability to demonstrate that strategies and plans with robust and achievable aims, plans and objectives are in place. These plans will be judged upon their ability to deliver what is proposed through documented and reported evidence based information.

30. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor W. Armstrong, seconded by Councillor M.J. Malone, that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act (as amended).

31. REPLACEMENT OF PRINTING EQUIPMENT

Councillor Coulson presented the report which sought Member approval to replace existing 13 year old printing equipment.

Options:

- (1) Investment in a new stitch/fold unit.
- (2) Pay for booklet making to be done externally.
- (3) Fold/stitch documents manually.

RESOLVED: that approval be granted for the acquisition of a new stitch/fold unit as detailed in the report and that finance staff be authorised to seek the best quotation for leasing the equipment.

Reason: The Best Value Review of the printing service, identified the need to invest in new equipment to improve the printing service, increase productivity and develop new services that are not currently offered by 'In Print'

32. STRATEGIC RESOURCES DIVISION REVIEW

Councillor Huntley presented the report which detailed proposals to align resources to support the newly constituted directorates and to clarify roles and responsibilities within the Housing and Capital Works Directorate, ensuring that issues such as the increase in the number of Right to Buy applications and the advent of the Supporting People regime can be accommodated.

Option Whether or not to agree to the proposed changes to the Strategic Resources Division as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: that the report be forwarded to Scrutiny, for their comments.

Reason: To enable Scrutiny to fully debate the issues and report their recommendations to Executive.

33. STANLEY MARKETS

Councillor Llewellyn presented a report detailing a request from Stanley Market Company Ltd. to hold an Antiques Fair at Clifford Road, Stanley and a Sunday Car Boot Sale at Playing Fields, The Middles, Craghead.

Option: Whether or not to agree to the request from Stanley Market Company Ltd.

RESOLVED: that:-

- (1) the issues of the proposed markets at Clifford Road, Stanley and the Sunday Car Boot Sale at Playing Fields, the Middles, Craghead be treated as two separate applications and be forwarded to Licensing Committee for consideration.

Reason: The introduction of these additional markets would help to regenerate Stanley Town Centre. It was noted however, that the Licensing Committee would require input from the Head of Leisure Services regarding the suitability of the proposed location for the Sunday Car Boot sale.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.35 p.m.

Chair.