

## **EXECUTIVE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at 4.30 p.m.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor A. Watson, Chair

Councillors C.D. Christer, J. Huntley, O. Johnson, D.G. Lewellyn, M.J. Malone and A. Taylor

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors J. Pickersgill and W.J. Tyrie.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An Apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor W. Armstrong

#### **143. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY BOARD DEBATE**

A list of items discussed at Scrutiny Board was presented, the Chair advised that the comments would be referred to as each agenda item was discussed.

#### **144. MINUTES 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

Provided Minute Number 140 – Railway Terrace, Craghead is amended to Option 1: “let the land to the partnership with a 12 month brake clause” the minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005 be agreed as a correct record.

#### **145. THE EFFICIENCY AGENDA – SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS AND DRAFT ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2005/06**

Councillor Malone presented the report which advised of the requirements of the Government Efficiency Agenda and presented the authority’s first Annual Efficiency Statement covering the 2005/06 financial year.

**Option:** Whether or not to adopt the measurement and reporting systems set out in the report.

**RESOLVED:** that:-

- (1) the Executive notes and endorses the Forward Looking Annual Efficiency Statement for 2005/06;
- (2) the Director of Finance is the nominated Lead Officer for Efficiency;
- (3) the Deputy Leader is the nominated Lead Member for Efficiency;
- (4) strong links to procurement are developed, the remit of the procurement strategy group is broadened to take in the development of the Efficiency Agenda.

**Reason:** To comply with the guidance and timescales for the Annual Efficiency Statement 2005/06.

**COUNCILLOR C. CHRISTER ENTERED THE MEETING AT 4.37 P.M.**

**146. SERVICE STANDARDS IN RELATION TO ADAPTATIONS FOR THE DISABLED**

Councillor Watson presented the report which sought approval for (i) adoption of certain service standards in relation to the adaptations service, and (ii) adoption of a policy which will allow for the fast tracking of requests for adaptations and relevant repairs in respect of residents who find themselves in intermediate care.

**Option:** Whether to adopt, amend or reject the service standards as detailed in the report regarding the adaptations service.

**RESOLVED:** that the service standards and intermediate care arrangements detailed within Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be adopted.

**Reasons:**

- (1) The proposed service standards will give clients a more accurate picture of what they can expect of the service.
- (2) The proposed intermediate care standards are an acknowledgement of the need to adapt the service to meet the requirements of a truly integrated service.
- (3) The proposed intermediate care standards are an acknowledgement of the need to adapt the service to meet the requirements of a truly integrated service.

**147. SUCCESSFUL S.H.I.P. BID – PROPOSED MASTER PLAN FOR CRAGHEAD**

Councillor Watson presented the report which informed Members of a successful funding bid from the Single Housing Investment POT (S.H.I.P.) and sought approval for the commissioning of a study for the village of Craghead.

**Option:** Whether or not to agree to the commissioning of a study for the village of Craghead.

**RESOLVED:** that the success of the funding bid from the Single Housing Investment Pot be noted and that authority be granted to proceed with the commissioning of a study to develop a Regeneration Strategy and master plan for the village of Craghead.

**Reason:** A comprehensive study of the village of Craghead will need to be undertaken with a view to a regeneration strategy being prepared to include an action plan to deal with the problems that exist within the village.

**148. SUPPORTING PEOPLE – FIVE YEAR STRATEGY AND IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR A STRATEGIC AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT.**

Councillor Christer presented the report which informed Members of the key aspects of the Five Year Strategy and the strategic and service priorities identified during the strategy development process.

Councillor Huntley commented that Officers had invested a great deal of time on this project, including identifying gaps in services and it was disappointing that there was no increased funding to develop much needed services.

**Options:** Whether or not to agree, amend or reject the Five Year Strategy as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED:** that:-

- (1) The Supporting People Five-Year Strategy as set out in the report be endorsed.
- (2) Further updates on any significant amendments and progress in meeting the objectives of the strategy be reported to future meetings.

**Reason:** The strategy was endorsed as it was important to ensure that

continuity of the partnership was maintained.

**149. PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES AND TARGETS**

Councillor Malone presented the report which advised Members of the proposed Work Programme of activities and targets for Corporate Procurement between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

**Options:**

- (1) Accept the report in full and authorise the establishment of the “Derwentside Procurement Way” (work programme and targets) under the leadership of Corporate Procurement supported by the Procurement Strategy Network.
- (2) Reject the report and remain with the current operating methods.
- (3) Request amendments and further study of the proposed work plan and targets.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be accepted and authorisation be granted for the establishment of the “Derwentside Procurement Way” (work programme and targets) under the leadership of the Corporate Procurement supported by the Procurement Strategy Network.

**Reasons:**

- (1) The proposal supports the achievement of the Corporate Procurement Strategy
- (2) The target savings are required to support overall Gershon Efficiency requirements.
- (3) Procurement is an ever-increasing priority within local authorities and the results and self-sufficiency of capability need to be demonstrated to Residents, Members, Government and other stakeholders.

**150. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2005-06**

Councillor Malone presented the report which advised of a Member Development Plan for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Watson suggested that it would be useful if a course/workshop on the Council Constitution be offered as part of the Development Plan.

**Options:** Whether to agree, amend or reject the proposals in the report of the Member Development Plan.

**RESOLVED:** that the Member Development Plan as set out in the report be agreed.

**Reason:** To demonstrate commitment to the development of elected Members in order to achieve the Council's aims and objectives.

**151. DERWENTSIDE LEARNING AND EDUCATION REPORT**

Councillor Huntley presented the report which put forward proposals to enable the Council to develop more effective links with local schools to enrich and enhance the educational opportunities for the young people of Derwentside. The Learning Scrutiny Panel had driven the progress of this initiative and the work done had been via Members and Officers from both within and outside the Council and Councillor Watson commented that this was a useful way for Scrutiny to be involved.

**Options:** Whether to agree, amend or reject the proposals in the report for the Derwentside Learning and Education Project.

**RESOLVED:** that the proposals set out in the report for the Derwentside Learning and Education Project be agreed and referred back to the Learning Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

**Reason:** To develop partnerships with schools in a systematic and structured approach.

**152. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** on the motion of Councillor M. Malone, seconded by Councillor O. Johnson, 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 7, 8, and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act (as amended).

**153. TOMMY ARMSTRONG CENTRE – SUB LEASE**

(Not for publication by virtue of Paragraphs 7 and 9).

Councillor Huntley presented the report which updated Members on the Proposed sub-letting of the Tommy Armstrong Centre and sought authority to agree a sub-lease to Derwentside CVS subject to (i) the CVS agreeing terms; and (ii) Landlord approval for the sub-letting being obtained.

**Options:**

- (1) Proceed with the sub-letting.
- (2) Withdraw from the sub-letting and re-advertise the Council's leasehold interest in the property on the open market.

**RESOLVED:** that:-

- (1) Officers be authorised to conclude a sub-lease to Derwentside CVS and permit occupation of the Tommy Armstrong Centre by the CVS as soon as legal documentation has been completed and the Council's Landlord's formal approval obtained.

**Reasons:**

- (1) To enable a prominent town-centre building to be brought back into use and improved community services.
- (2) This will place no additional revenue burden upon the Council and obviates any need for Council capital expenditure in order to bring the building up to lettable standards.
- (3) The Landlord's approval to the sub-lease is required.

**154. ALLENSFORD CARAVAN PARK**

(Not for consideration by virtue of Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9).

Councillor Watson advised that Scrutiny Board had requested that this report be referred to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration.

**Options:**

- (1) To consider Scrutiny Boards request to refer the item to Overview and Scrutiny.
- (2) To consider the report.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be referred to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration before being returned to Executive.

**Reason:** To enable Overview and Scrutiny to fully debate the report and forward any comments for consideration by the Executive.

**CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

**Chair.**