

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on 16th October 2006 at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Watson

Councillors W. Armstrong, J. Huntley, O. Johnson, D.G. Llewellyn and M. J. Malone

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors W. Stelling and W. Tyrie.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor C. D. Christer and A. Taylor.

48. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY BOARD DEBATE

A list of items discussed at Scrutiny Board were circulated, the Chair advised that the comments, if any, would be referred to as each agenda item was discussed. A copy of the notes of the Board meeting held 13th October are attached for information. (Appendix 'A').

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Watson declared an interest in Item 5 on the Agenda.- Derwentside Local Development Framework: Regional Spatial Strategy – Panel Report, as he was Chair of the North East Regional Assembly.

50. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held 11th September 2006 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Councillor Watson requested an update on Minute Number 48 – Stanley Area Development Framework. In response the Director of Development and Asset Management advised that consultations and meetings were on-going with Local Ward Member and members of the public and an formal update was being prepared for the next meeting of the Executive.

**51. COUNCIL PERFORMANCE – REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE
FIRST QUARTER 2006/07**

Councillor M Malone presented the report which informed Members of the performance of red, amber and green rated Best Value Performance Indicators for the first quarter of 2006/07. He advised that the traffic lights system of red, amber and green indicators was now in place however, it was unfortunate that some of the indicators had not improved as hoped .

He referred to the Scrutiny Board notes of 13th October and commented that any proposals to visit high performing authorities should only be considered if this would add value to the process.

Councillor Watson commented that it was critical to have the commitment of all Members to the Scrutiny process of monitoring the Council's performance.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree, amend or reject the proposals in the report regarding performance indicators.

RESOLVED:

1. That the information in the report regarding performance indicators be noted.
2. That all completed Action Plans for red risk indicators included in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the report be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Panel.
3. It was noted that Members could commission further reports into the performance of any of the amber risk rated indicators with a view to incorporating any indicators that pose concern into the Action Planning and Scrutiny process as detailed in the report.

Reason: To ensure that any slippages in performance can be noted and risk bandings re-assessed throughout the year.

Councillor a Watson declared an interest in Item 5 on the Agenda – (Derwentside Local Development Framework: Regional Spatial Strategy – Panel Report), as he was Chair of the North East Regional Assembly. It was agreed that he be allowed to remain in the meeting.

**52. DERWENTSIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:
REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY – PANEL REPORT**

Councillor O. Johnson presented the report which informed Members of the contents of the Panel Report following the Examination in Public into the North

East Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) held in March/April this year. The Panel Report had a number of implications for Derwentside and it was recommended that robust comments needed to be made to Government Officer for the North East (GONE) in response. Key issues from the Panel report for Derwentside and County Durham included:

- City Regions
- Regeneration Areas
- Employment Sites
- Housing Allocations

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree, amend or reject the proposal to forward comments to GONE as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to GONE based on the contents of the report to ensure GONE are made aware of the Council's concerns.

Reason: Due to the likely detrimental impacts, it was essential that the Council did not wait until GONE published the Proposed Changes to comment on these issues. Although the RSS preparation process does not allow for representations to be made on the Panel Report there is nothing to prevent the Council making its concerns over some of the Panel Report's recommendations known to GONE.

53. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2006/07

Councillor J. Huntley presented the report which advised Members on the current projected position regarding the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) given the revised housing stock transfer date of 4th December 2006. It also factored in additional calls on resources that had become necessary due to the transfer date being moved back from that used in the original budget setting process.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree, amend or reject the proposals regarding the HRA.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received and that the projected Housing Revenue Account position is noted.
2. That the additional resources requested be approved as follows:
 - £169,000 additional capital (above the additional MRA generated of £370,000)
 - £630,000 additional revenue for repairs and maintenance.

Reason: The additional calls on resources had become necessary due to the transfer date being moved back from that used in the original budget setting process.

54. ELECTORAL REGISTRATION AND ELECTION SERVICES

Councillor J. Huntley presented the report which advised of The Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the extended requirements of Electoral Registration Officers in relation to the annual canvas of electors.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree, amend or reject the proposals regarding funds for Electoral Administration.

RESOLVED: That the request to release the appropriate funds to purchase the equipment detailed in the report be agreed.

Reason: The purchase of the equipment, licences etc, are seen as fundamental to the successful conduct of the electoral registration and election processes of the Council.

55. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Councillor Watson presented the report which sought approval to adopt the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) as set out in the report. He raised concerns regarding the proposals and suggested that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive to allow a full presentation to be given on the issues.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree, defer or reject the proposals for the Playing Pitch Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive, when a full presentation be given on these issues.

Reason: In order that further consideration can be given to the playing pitch strategy.

57. EXCLUSION

On the motion of Councillor W. Armstrong, seconded by Councillor D. Lewellyn, 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 Paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act 1972 (As amended).

58. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HILLTOP VIEW, LANGLEY PARK

Councillor J. Huntley presented the report which advised on the latest situation regarding the proposed disposal of land at Hilltop View, Langley Park.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree or reject the proposed offer.

RESOLVED: That the proposal to dispose of the site for the sum as detailed in the report be agreed.

Reason: This was still the highest offer received for the site and re-advertising was considered to be a waste of Council resources.

59. DISPOSAL OF THORNEYHOLME TERRACE CAR PARK, STANLEY

Councillor D. Lewellyn presented the report which advised Members of the terms agreed for the disposal of the Thorneyholme Terrace Car Park in Stanley.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to note or amend the terms agreed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the terms agreed for the disposal of the Thorneyholm Terrace Car Park in Stanley be noted.

Reason: It was considered that the requirement to obtain best consideration under s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972 had been satisfied.

60. DISPOSAL OF OLDER INDUSTRIAL PORTFOLIO

Councillor D. Lewellyn presented the report which sought approval to amendments to the previously approved terms for disposing of the older Industrial Property Portfolio.

Councillor Huntley asked for clarification regarding Watling Wood and in response the Director of Development & Asset Management confirmed that this was not included in the property portfolio.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree or reject the amendments for the disposal.

RESOLVED: That authority be granted to proceed with the disposal of the older Industrial Property Portfolio as detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

Reason: To enable the Council to maximise the return from the disposal at the earliest opportunity.

61. CONSETT SPORTS VILLAGE PROGRESS

Councillor Watson presented the report which provided Members with an update on the Consett Sports Village. The report outlined the need for a formal Development Agreement and the requirement to include entering into a conditional contract with Dysart in order to develop the project. Copies of Appendix A to the report were circulated to all at the meeting.

The Chair referred Members to the notes of Scrutiny Board held 13th October 2006.

Options: Whether to agree, amend or reject the proposals for the development.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress on the report be noted.
2. Members agree to the development of a conditional contract with Dysart.
3. That Officers are requested to progress the pre-development work as outlined in Appendix A of the report.
4. That Officers organise a Members' workshop on design and operational issues.
5. A detailed report outlining the Development Agreement be brought before a future meeting of the Executive.

Reason: This is a significant project for the District Council and in pursuing the project's delivery, it is imperative that a formal development agreement be put in place between the District Council and Dysart Developments.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.06 p.m.