

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE**

**HELD ON TUESDAY, 14TH JUNE, 2005**

Present: Councillor A. Napier (Chair)  
Councillors R. Crute, Mrs. J. Freak,  
J. Goodwin, D. Myers, G. Patterson,  
C. Reynolds, F. Shaw and R.J. Todd

Apologies: S. Huntington

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 24th May, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **COMMISSIONING OF TWO STUDIES AS PART OF THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR EASINGTON DISTRICT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment which sought approval to appoint consultants to undertake two studies identified as key aspects of the evidence base required to prepare policies in the Local Development Framework for the district (LDF), a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that following the introduction of Local Development Frameworks in the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, the Council was required to prepare and maintain an up to date information base on key aspects of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area, to enable the preparation of sound policies for inclusion in the LDF.

In considering significant issues for this district, two specific information gaps had been identified where further work was required to develop a sound evidence base to underpin future policies, these being green space strategy and affordable housing needs.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) approval be granted to extend the contract with Cass Associates to enable them to prepare Green Space Strategy on completion of the open space audit;
- (ii) approval be granted to engage appropriate consultants to undertake a study into affordable housing provision.

3. **PROCUREMENT - TRADING AND CHARGING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Organisational Development which provided an overview of local government trading and charging powers and outlined the considerations in adopting a policy for the Council in the context of the National Procurement Strategy, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that the "National Procurement Strategy for Local Government" (NPS) published in 2003 contained a three year strategic programme with procurement milestones set to be achieved in the years 2004 – 2006, details of which were outlined.

## **Executive – 14 June 2005**

Trading and charging were seen as key components of the NPS. In particular they provided new opportunities for Councils to achieve service improvement and better value for money.

Trading and charging must be linked to the Council's corporate objectives to achieve improvement in services, the provision of best value and was also an integral part of strategic procurement.

The Trading and Charging Policy was integral to the Council's overall Procurement Strategy and was required to meet the milestones set out in the Government's National Procurement Guidelines. If adopted the medium term financial strategy would be amended to reflect this policy.

**RESOLVED** that the Trading and Charging Policy be approved and submitted to Full Council for adoption.

### **4. EAST DURHAM BUSINESS CENTRE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which provided an update on the East Durham Business Centre project and sought approval for an additional contribution of £100,000 towards the development costs of the Business Centre, to be met from the Flexible Regeneration Budget in 2006/2007.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) approval be granted for a revised financial contribution of £200,000 to support the total estimated development cost of £2,536,665 for the provision of the East Durham Business Centre;
- (ii) the additional contribution of £100,000 be met from the Flexible Regeneration Budget for 2006/2007;
- (iii) a further report on the management and operational arrangements for the Business Centre be prepared.

### **5. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair, following consultation with the Proper Officer agreed that the following item of business, not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

### **6. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2005 - 2008 (AOB)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Organisational Development which sought approval to a new Race Equality Scheme for the District of Easington Council, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 placed positive duties on all public authorities to:-

**Executive – 14 June 2005**

- eliminate unlawful discrimination in all of its functions;
- promote equality of opportunity; and
- promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

The Act placed a duty on public authorities to publish a Race Equality Scheme at least every three years, which outlined how the organisation would meet the three general duties. The document also contained a list of all the authority's functions that were relevant to the duties, a three year action plan which outlined how the authority would meet the duties and a position statement and action plan which detailed how the authority would promote the duties in employment.

**RESOLVED** that the Race Equality Scheme 2005-2008 be approved and submitted to Full Council for adoption.

**7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraphs 7 and 9, Schedule 12A of the Act.

**8. ACQUISITION OF 2.4 ACRES OF LAND ADJACENT TO HACKWORTH ROAD DEPOT, PETERLEE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which sought approval to purchase 2.4 acres of land adjacent to Hackworth Road Depot, Peterlee, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the Head of Asset and Property Management be authorised to pursue the purchase of the land adjacent to the Council Depot at Hackworth Road, Peterlee on the best terms that can be agreed with the Alliance Group up to a maximum of £200,000;
- (ii) approval be granted to undertake ground investigation works at a cost of up to £5,400 to ensure the suitability of its condition;
- (iii) a design and costing be prepared for the layouts, fencing and other accommodation and access works necessary for the effective use of the site;
- (iv) the cost of £200,000, plus other works associated with the extension of the depot, be met from Capital receipts.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIR .....

Date .....