

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

HELD ON TUESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2005

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

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

2. **LOANS DIARY – TRANSACTIONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, which gave details of loans transactions for the quarter ended 30 September, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report gave details of short term lending and borrowing, treasury accounts and long term borrowing.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the report, be noted.

3. **GENERAL FUND/HOUSING REVENUE – 2005/2006 MONITORING STATEMENT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services which gave details of the financial position for the period 1 April to 30 September 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Details of the revised forecast position on the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Annual Efficiency Statements and the Medium Term Plan - 2005/6 to 2007/8 were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the report, be noted.

4. **REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE NORTH EAST: SUBMISSION DRAFT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport which sought endorsement of officer representations submitted in response to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East: Submission Draft (RSS), prepared by the North East Assembly (NEA), a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that the Examination in Public (EIP) would be held in March/April 2006 before an independent panel of inspectors. As Durham County Council would be the only Durham authority represented at the meeting it was intended that all the Durham authorities would meet to agree a common approach.

RESOLVED that the officer representations outlined in the report be endorsed as the Councils formal response to the RSS Submission Draft and further developments be awaited.

5. COUNCIL RESPONSE TO OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport which sought to clarify the procedure to respond to consultations from neighbouring local authorities on the development plan documents in their Local Development Frameworks, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Control to respond to consultations on LDF documents from neighbouring authorities, except where it was considered that an objection should be made to a policy or proposal in a final submission draft of the document, in which case the matter would be reported to the Executive for a formal representation to be made.

6. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS 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 three items of business, not shown on the Agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency. However, due to the exempt nature of two of the items they be considered following the exclusion of the press and public.

7. NORTH EAST DISTRICT COUNCILS CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDING (AOB)

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Organisational Development which gave details of a successful bid from North East Councils for capacity building funding to deliver a programme of Officer and Member development across the District Councils in Durham and Northumberland and sought approval for Easington to be the host employer for the post of Project Coordinator to facilitate implementation of the programme, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the Council's Constitution relating to call-in and urgency, the Executive agreed that the decision to be taken was urgent and that the Chair of the Council, in consultation with the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees be requested to waive the call-in process. The decision was considered to be urgent to allow recruitment to begin immediately.

RESOLVED that the information given in relation to the capacity building funding be noted and approval be granted for the Authority to host the post of Project Coordinator on a three year fixed term contract.

8. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 8, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

9. CONSULTANT STUDIES TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration, which sought approval to appoint consultants to undertake work on two specific exercises related to the promotion of the economic regeneration of the District, a

Executive - 1st November, 2005

copy of which had been circulated to each Member. In addition approval was sought to waive Contract Standing Order 4(A)(iii) to allow a specific consultancy firm to be appointed to undertake the two studies on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) Contract Standing Order 4(A)(iii) be waived to enable the appointment of Shared Intelligence to undertake the two commissions identified in the report.
- (ii) the final terms of the agreed Brief for the two studies and the associated fee charges be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration.
- (iii) resources for supporting the work be met from the approved General Fund Reserve.

10. EAST DURHAM BUSINESS CENTRE (AOB)

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which advised of the award of the contract for the East Durham Business Centre project, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the awarding of the contract for the East Durham Business Centre project to Wates Construction Ltd be noted.

11. LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EASINGTON COLLIERY SCHOOL (AOB)

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control which sought approval to appoint a planning consultant to represent the Council at a public local inquiry following the Secretary of State's decision to "call in" the decision on the proposed demolition of Easington Colliery School which was a listed building, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the Council's Constitution relating to call-in and urgency, the Executive agreed that the decision to be taken was urgent and that the Chair of the Council, in consultation with the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees be requested to waive the call-in process. The decision was considered to be urgent due to tight timescales and the need to commence the commission.

RESOLVED that Contract Standing Order 4(A)(ii) be waived to enable England and Lyle to be appointed to complete the necessary planning consultancy work on behalf of the Council in relation to the public local inquiry into the proposed demolition of Easington Colliery School.