

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

**HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 2006**

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

Apologies: Councillor R Crute

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 13th December, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **PROPOSED NEW WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport which sought approval to introduce a four day week for domestic refuse collection services and zonal working arrangements for street cleansing, horticulture and refuse collection services throughout the district from April 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the introduction of a four day week for refuse collection commencing April 2006 be approved;
- (ii) approval be granted for the one-off compensation arrangements, outlined in the report, to be met from savings in the current financial year;
- (iii) the principle of zonal working and the introduction of clean and green teams be approved and a further report detailing the operational implications be submitted to Executive.

3. **THE DARZI REVIEW OF ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TEES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee which gave details of an investigation into the implications of the Darzi Review of Acute Health Services North and South of the Tees for the residents of the District of Easington in terms of access/transport to NHS services, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Chair thanked everyone involved in the consultation exercise for their efforts.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the information contained within the report be noted and the recommendations detailed therein be endorsed as part of the Councils formal response to the Darzi Review consultation exercise;
- (ii) the letter of the Leader of the Council be endorsed as the Councils formal response to the Darzi Review consultation exercise.

**4. 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 two items of business, not shown on the Agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency. However, due to the exempt nature of one of the items it be considered following the exclusion of the press and public.

**5. TOWN TWINNING - EASINGTON BAESWEILER (AOB)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Community and Culture which gave details of an invitation from Baesweiler for the District Council to attend the Annual Karneval and Kirmes celebrations, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report sought approval for an official visit to the Karneval between 22nd February and 2nd March, 2006, and the Kirmes on 8th and 17th June, 2006.

It was policy for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, together with the Twinning Officer, to attend on these occasions. The Chief Executive had previously visited Baesweiler to generate closer links with counterparts in Baesweiler and it was suggested that other Members of the Management Team attend. It was therefore proposed that the Director of Community Services participate in the 2006 Kirmes visit to Baesweiler on behalf of the Chief Executive.

**RESOLVED** that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, together with the Twinning Officer, be authorised to attend both the Karneval and Kirmes celebrations in 2006 and the Director of Community Services be authorised to attend the Kirmes visit.

**6. 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 Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**7. EASINGTON COLLIERY GROUP REPAIR - OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION FROM OWNER (AOB)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Housing Strategy, which sought approval to write-off an outstanding contribution from the owner of a property in Easington Colliery, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the outstanding contribution be "written-off" and removed as a land charge against the property;
- (ii) the Head of Housing Strategy complete the review of all outstanding contributions for all group repair schemes and prepare a further report for Executive and Audit Scrutiny Committee;

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- (iii) the Audit Scrutiny Committee be asked to undertake an in depth review of the Councils Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy and management of schemes as part of this Policy.

### **8. LAND ADJACENT TO THE MALLARD, SEAHAM**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which sought approval to dispose of land to Holyhead Home Developments Limited, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** that the disposal of land adjacent to the Mallard, Seaham to Holyhead Home Developments Limited, for the purpose of residential development, be approved.

### **9. DISPOSAL OF LAND AND PROPERTY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which gave details of land and property sold by the Council during the period December 2003 to September 2005 in accordance with delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Development, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** that the action taken by the Director of Regeneration and Development be endorsed.

### **10. NORTH BLUNTS PRIMARY SCHOOL, PETERLEE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which sought approval to release restrictive covenants in favour of the District Council on land belonging to Durham County Council at North Blunts Primary School, Burnhope Way, Peterlee and dispose of 0.038 acres of District Council owned land to Modus Developments to facilitate access to the site for retail redevelopment, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the release of the restrictive covenants on land belonging to Durham County Council be approved;
- (ii) the disposal of 0.038 acres of Council owned land to Modus Developments Limited be approved.

### **11. APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DEPOT CENTRALISATION AT HACKWORTH ROAD**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport which sought approval for the appointment of project management consultants to oversee the development of Hackworth Road Depot and the centralisation of East Durham Homes Stores/Maintenance Services to this site, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the Councils Constitution relating to Call-in and Urgency, the Executive agreed that the decision to be taken was urgent and 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

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due to the tight timescales involved in the appointment of the management consultants.

**RESOLVED** that Contract Standing Order No 1 be waived to enable the appointment of Space and Form to undertake the project management of the depot centralisation.

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11th January, 2006