

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2005**

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 11th October, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY/PLANS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services which gave details of amendments to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and sought approval to measures to sustain the Council's future budget position, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be submitted to Full Council with the following amendments
 - charges to be reviewed by each service in line with the Trading and Charging Policy and become part of the budget setting process
 - where new initiatives were to be funded externally a report be submitted to Executive to ensure the future financial implications were considered and exit strategies were clearly set out and managed
 - future efficiency plans were included in future budget processes;
- (ii) a budget reduction target of £800K by 2007/2008 with a minimum £400K achieved for the 2006/2007 budget be agreed;
- (iii) Management Team bring forward a system to regularly review and improve value for money at the Council.

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY - PROGRESS 2004/2005 AND ACTION PLAN 2005/2006**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport which gave details of progress against the 2004/2005 Environmental Policy Action Plan and sought approval for the 2005/2006 Action Plan and internal Performance Indicators, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the end of year performance of the Council against its Environmental Action Plan 2004/2005 be noted;

- (ii) the Action Plan for 2005/2006 and the proposed local Performance Indicators outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 be endorsed.

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

5. 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 8 and 9, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

6. EDENHILL ROAD SHOPS, PETERLEE - LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which sought approval for an Environmental Improvement Scheme at Edenhill Road shops, Peterlee, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the landscaping improvement scheme proposals for Edenhill Road shops, Peterlee be endorsed;
- (ii) authority be granted to the Director of Regeneration and Development in liaison with the Executive Member for Regeneration to progress the implementation of the scheme on the basis of nil cost to the Council in accordance with Standing Orders for Contracts;
- (iii) Groundwork East Durham be authorised to act as the Council's agents for the delivery of the scheme on the proviso Groundwork complied with the Council's guidelines for implementation of physical development works, as per the existing delivery agreement.

7. EAST DURHAM BUSINESS CENTRE (AOB)

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which gave details of progress on the East Durham Business Centre advised of measures taken to seek value for money for the project through the tender process and sought approval for the arrangements to award the build contract, 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 work to progress to award the build contract.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) progress made on the East Durham Business Centre project be noted;
- (ii) the action taken to secure best value for the Council through seeking re-tenders for the East Durham Business Centre contract and the departure from Standing Orders be endorsed;
- (iii) authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration and the Principal Economic Development Officer to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender.
- (iv) a further report on the outcome of this process be submitted to Executive.

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