

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

HELD ON TUESDAY, 4TH APRIL, 2006

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

Apology: Councillor R.J. Todd

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 14th March, 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **RECOVERY COSTS FOR COUNCIL TAX AND NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Financial Management which sought approval to increase the charge to Ratepayers and Council Taxpayers of obtaining a Liability Order and Committal Summons from the Magistrates Court for the recovery of Non Domestic Rates and Council Tax. The report also sought approval for charges to be levied by the Council's Internal Bailiff in connection with enforcement action undertaken on behalf of the District Council, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be granted to increase the charge for obtaining a Liability Order in respect of Non Domestic Rates and Council Tax to £40 per case for a Liability Order and £70 per case for a Committal Summons;
- (ii) the charges related to the Internal Bailiff, which were either Statutory or reasonable, and reflected the current levels applied by External Bailiffs be approved;
- (iii) both charges be reviewed as part of the annual budget process.

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

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services which advised of the financial position for the period 1 April, 2005 to 28 February, 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that budget holders were required to carry out a monthly exercise of examining their spending and the appendices/statements attached to the report reflected the forecasted position to 31 March, 2006.

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services outlined in detail the revised forecast position on the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account and explained that the final accounts would clarify the situation further.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and a further report reviewing the situation following the closure of the accounts be awaited.

4. CONCESSIONARY FARES FOR OLDER AND DISABLED PEOPLE - REVISED SCHEME FROM 1ST APRIL, 2006

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services which sought confirmation of arrangements for the amended Concessionary Bus Fares Scheme to be implemented on 1 April, 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Reference was made to publicity in relation to the Scheme which had been communicated through the local media, Infopoint, leaflet distribution and information on issue of the pass.

It was suggested that the authority issue a press statement in relation to the Concessionary Fares Scheme which outlined how this was a good example of how partnership working with neighbouring districts, the County Council and bus companies had benefited communities across County Durham.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) retrospective approval be granted to implement a countywide scheme which offered free travel to the elderly and qualifying disabled residing within the district to the destinations stipulated under the revised arrangements for the Scheme from 1 April 2006.
- (ii) the maximum cost estimated at £1.872M be met from existing budgets and earmarked reserves as agreed in the budget process;
- (iii) details of future apportionments between the districts be reviewed in time for the 2007/2008 budget process;
- (iv) a press statement be issued in relation to the Concessionary Fares Scheme by the Communications and Marketing Manager.

5. PROCUREMENT CODE OF PRACTICE

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Corporate Procurement Manager and Monitoring Officer which sought approval of the Code of Practice for Procurement, to a review of the Council's Constitution and associated Standing Orders to bring them in line with current procurement best practice and to agree on the next steps in rolling the Code of Practice out across the authority, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Procurement Code of Practice, for application to all appropriate procurement activity and the amendments to Standing Orders, including the revised limits for seeking quotations, be approved.
- (ii) the Corporate Procurement Manager be authorised to implement the next stages outlined in the report and report progress to the Management Team and Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee in line with the reporting procedures outlined in the Procurement Strategy;
- (iii) a resolution be sought of a recognised exception to Standing Order 1 as outlined in 7.2.5 of the report subject to the conditions outlined;

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- (v) the Procurement Code of Practice be submitted to Full Council for adoption.

6. COUNTY DURHAM FLY-TIPPING PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport which sought approval to join the County Durham Fly-Tipping Partnership, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The project involved the Durham Districts, the County Council and the Environment Agency jointly contributing to one fly tipping officer to investigate all fly tipping incidents across the county.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to join the County Durham Fly-Tipping Partnership.

7. THE "LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE WORKING TOGETHER" PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Health which sought approval to sign up to the "Statement of Intent" in support of the "Working Together in Partnership with the Health and Safety Executive" Initiative, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

In addition approval was sought for a delegation from the District of Easington to attend a countywide event with the Health and Safety Executive and other supporting authorities in County Durham to promote the signing of the agreement.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) approval be granted to sign up to the "Statement of Intent" in support of the "Working Together in Partnership with the Health and Safety Executive" Initiative;
- (ii) Councillor R J Todd, Executive Member for Health, be nominated to attend the signing event, and sign the "Statement of Intent" on behalf of the District of Easington.

8. RENAMING OF 1-5 THE BUNGALOWS, NEVILLE ROAD, PETERLEE

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport which sought approval to make an Order under Section 18 of the Public Health Act 1925 to alter the street name of "The Bungalows, Neville Road, Peterlee" which incorporated nos 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to "Westwick Bungalows, Peterlee", a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be granted to make an Order under Section 18 of the Public Health Act 1925 to change the name of the street currently known as "The Bungalows, Neville Road, Peterlee" to "Westwick Bungalows, Peterlee" and a new postcode be sought from Royal Mail;
- (ii) the proposal be submitted to Full Council for adoption.

9. TYNE AND WEAR CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which gave details of progress made in respect of the Tyne and Wear City Region Development Programme which was initiated as part of the Northern Way Growth Initiative and the City Region Summits, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that a Business Case for the Tyne and Wear City Region had recently been developed on a partnership basis during which Easington represented the Northern Durham Districts in the process and the document was submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the actions taken by the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive in endorsing the submission of the Tyne and Wear City Region Business Case to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, on behalf of the Council be endorsed;
- (ii) progress made in the development of the Tyne and Wear City Region Business Case be noted.

10. 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. However, due to the confidential nature of the item it be considered following the exclusion of the press and public

11. 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 Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

12. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT TO CALL CENTRE PROFESSIONAL LIMITED (AOB)

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Head of E-Government and Information Services and Assistant Chief Executive which sought approval to extend the current contract with Call Centre Professional Limited to support the Best Value Review of Support Services and to continue to generate efficiencies across all Service Units by scrutinising all key business processes, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that Contract Standing Order No. 4(A)(ii) be waived to allow the extension of the contract to Call Centre Professional Limited, as outlined in the report and the Council's contract management principles be adhered to during the life of the contract.