

City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Gala Theatre, Durham, on Wednesday, 9th January, 2008, at 3.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Reynolds (in the Chair)
and Councillors Bell, Pitts, Rae, Southwell, Thomson, van Zwanenberg and Woods.

Also Present: Councillors Kellett, Mitchell, M.J.A. Smith, Wilkes, Wilkinson and Wolstenholme.

434. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

435. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dickie and Jackson.

436. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th December, 2007, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Portfolio Member Recommendations or Items Requiring a Cabinet Decision

437. BENEFITS SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: INCLUDING INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE: PROPOSED STRUCTURAL CHANGES

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Director of Financial Services submitted a comprehensive report detailing changes in legislation with regards to Benefits Administration, brought about by the introduction of the Local Housing Allowance in April 2008. The report also identified the wider impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2007 on the Benefits Service, and identified and recommended changes to the organisational structure within the Benefits Service that would be required to respond effectively to the challenges that would be faced from next year onwards.

Resolved: (i) That the impact of the Welfare Reform Act on the Council's Benefits Service be noted.

(ii) That the structural changes outlined in the report be approved.

438. IN PRIVATE

Portfolio Member Recommendations or Items Requiring a Cabinet Decision

439. BENEFITS SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: INCLUDING INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE: PROPOSED STRUCTURAL CHANGES

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Director of Financial Services submitted a comprehensive report identifying and recommending changes to the organisational structure within the Benefits Service that would be required to respond effectively to that challenges that would be faced from next year.

Resolved: That the structural changes outlined in the report be approved.

440. LEASE OF BEARPARK COMMUNITY CENTRE TO BEARPARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Leader of the Council, Director of Strategic Services and Head of Legal and Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to consider leasing Bearpark Community Centre to Bearpark Community Association.

Resolved: That a sub-lease of Bearpark Community Centre and facilities be granted to Bearpark Community Association on the terms outlined in the report and subject to consent to the sub-lease being granted by CISWO.

441. AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AND PROVIDE A NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT SHERBURN HILL

The Leader of the Council, Director of Strategic Services and Head of Legal and Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to consider a proposal to enter into a lease with Sherburn Hill Community Association, but ultimately to dispose of the existing building and to build a new community centre at Sherburn Hill by using the proceeds of the sale of the existing community centre (held by the Council as the Trustee of the Charity known as the Sherburn Hill Community Hall).

Resolved: (i) That the disposal of Sherburn Hill Community Centre to Sherburn Hill Community Association by way of a lease on the terms as set out in the report be approved.

(ii) That the sale of the current Sherburn Hill Community Centre be approved, subject to the net proceeds of sale being applied in accordance with the charitable scheme affecting such premises and provided that the requisite consents from the Charity Commission and CISWO are obtained.

(iii) That, subject to Local Government Review, Sherburn Hill Community Association be offered an initial lease of the new Community Centre to be constructed in Sherburn Hill.

The Meeting terminated at 3.10 p.m.

Chair