

City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Gala Theatre, Durham, on Monday, 14th January, 2008 at 3.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Councillors Cowper, Howarth, Kellett, M.J.A. Smith, Wilkes, Wilkinson, Wolstenholme and Young.

447. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

448. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dickie.

449. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th January, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

450. PRESENTATION

Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre Update

Mr J Riddell, Head of Environment & Leisure Services, Mr N Dodds, Leisure Services Manager and Ms L Welford, Swimming Development Coach, gave Members a Presentation on further progress made on the new Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre, Freeman's Place, Durham.

Following a question and answer session, the Chairman thanked Mr Riddell, Mr Dodds and Ms Welford for a very informative presentation.

Portfolio Member Recommendations or Items Requiring a Cabinet Decision

451. CONSULTATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY & TOOLKIT

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Head of Community Services submitted a comprehensive report seeking support for progression towards the development of a systematic, co-ordinated and mainstream approach to consultation and engagement.

Resolved: That the Consultation and Community Engagement Policy and Consultation Toolkit be approved and adopted.

452. PROPOSAL TO DECLARE A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE AT FLASS VALE

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture and Head of Cultural Services submitted a comprehensive report seeking support and approval to designate a new Local Nature Reserve at Flass Vale, to publicise this with an appropriate event, and to agree to review the boundary and extension of the new Local Nature Reserve following further consultation with adjacent landowners.

Resolved: (i) That agreement be given to the formal designation of the City of Durham Council owned portion of Flass Vale as a Local Nature Reserve under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as Amended).

(ii) That agreement be given to review the boundary and extent of the new Local Nature Reserve following consultation with adjacent landowners.

(iii) That the Head of Legal and Strategic Services be instructed to take the necessary steps to implement the decision.

453. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Head of Environment & Leisure Services submitted a comprehensive report seeking support for progression towards the adoption of a Council Sustainable Development Policy.

Resolved: (i) That the Draft Sustainable Development Policy be recommended for adoption by the City Council.

(ii) That approval be given for a suitable press release and the appropriate publicity in relation to the Policy.

The Chairman had agreed to accept, as a matter of urgency and due to the time factor involved, a Supplementary Report in relation to Representatives on Durham County Council/Durham Districts Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

454. REPRESENTATIVES ON DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL/DURHAM DISTRICTS JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive submitted a report seeking confirmation of the Council's representatives on Durham County Council/Durham Districts Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee which would oversee the work of the Implementation Executive for the new Unitary Authority.

Resolved: That Councillor Hopgood be confirmed as the Council's representatives on the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor Howarth be the nominated substitute.

Reports from Scrutiny Panels

455. REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL – REVIEW OF SCRUTINY OF FLY-TIPPING, RECYCLING AND LITTER PICKERS

The Environment Scrutiny Panel carried out a review of the recommendations made in their previous reports on the topics of Fly-Tipping, Recycling and Litter Pickers.

Their report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2007, when it was resolved that the report be forwarded to Cabinet. A copy of the report had been circulated.

Resolved: That the report and recommendations be approved and adopted.

456. REPORT OF POLICY SCRUTINY PANEL – SCRUTINY OF THE MEMBERS ONLINE SYSTEM

The Policy Scrutiny Panel had carried out a Scrutiny of the Members Online System.

Their report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2007, when it was resolved that the report be forwarded to Cabinet. A copy of the report had been circulated.

Resolved: (i) That the allowance payable to Members for using the Members Online system be reviewed in conjunction with all other Members Allowances at the appropriate time.

(ii) That recommendations (2) and (3) as detailed in the report be approved.

(iii) That recommendation (4) as detailed in the report be rejected, and a written reason for this be provided to the Scrutiny Committee in due course.

Reports for Information

457. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN CASES

The Chief Executive submitted a report of a successful defence of a complaint referred to the Commission for Local Administration in England.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Note: Councillor van Zwanenberg entered the Meeting at 3.55 p.m.

458. IN PRIVATE

Portfolio Member Recommendations or Items Requiring a Cabinet Decision

The Chairman had agreed to accept, as a matter of urgency and due to the time factor involved, the Supplementary Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture and the Head of Cultural Services relating to Durham Town Hall: Restructure

459. DURHAM TOWN HALL: RESTRUCTURE

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture and Head of Cultural Services submitted a comprehensive report to consider a revised staffing structure for the Town Hall, following extensive physical works and a functional review.

Resolved: (i) That a new post of Town Hall Manager be established, as detailed in the report.

(ii) That the existing staff posts be restructured Customer Support Assistants.

The Meeting terminated at 4.00 p.m.

Chair