

## City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2008, at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Reynolds (in the Chair)  
and Councillors Bell, Jackson, Pitts, Thomson and Woods.

**Also Present:** Councillors Carr, Colledge, Cowper, Howarth, Kellett, Kelly, Lightley, Marsden, Robinson, Simpson, Stoddart, Turnbull, Wilkes and Wilkinson.

### **32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

### **33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Moderate and Southwell.

### **34. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **Audit Reports**

### **35. ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER**

Sarah Diggle and Jim Dafter from the Audit Commission were in attendance to present the above circulated report to Cabinet Members.

Members thanked staff for their efforts, and the Audit Commission for the advice and guidance it had given. Members and Staff also expressed particular thanks to Sarah Diggle and Jim Dafter for their hard work, given that they were moving on to other things.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

#### **Portfolio Member Recommendations or Items Requiring a Cabinet Decision**

### **36. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

The Leader of the Council and the Executive Director submitted a comprehensive report that considered the revised Health and Safety Policy, summarised its key messages, outlined arrangements for its implementations and sought the support of Members.

**Resolved:** That the revised Health and Safety Policy be approved and adopted.

### **37. TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

The Portfolio Holder for Performance Management and the Director of Corporate Services submitted a comprehensive report to promote equality of access to information and services for all sections of the community.

**Resolved:** That the Translation and Interpretation Policy and Guidelines be adopted.

*Councillor Pitts entered the Meeting at 2.20 p.m.*

**38. APPLICATION TO PURCHASE LAND ADJOINING 22 LIME PARK, BRANDON, DURHAM**

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Corporate Services submitted a comprehensive report to consider the Applicants' proposal to purchase Council owned land adjoining his property.

**Resolved:** That the Leader of the Council be authorised to determine the application.

**39. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT CONSULTANCY STUDY - SOCCARENA**

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Regeneration and the Head of Planning Services submitted a comprehensive report following an independent study into the findings and recommendations of the report from the Local Government Ombudsman (August 2007) in response to a complaint regarding the Soccarena football centre, Belmont.

**Resolved:** (i) That the Consultants findings be noted.

(ii) That the guidance and advice be applied by officers when assessing the impact of development proposals in sensitive landscapes.

**40. ISO9001:2000 QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR BUILDING CONTROL**

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Regeneration and the Head of Planning Services submitted a comprehensive report to publicise the successful outcome of the renewal of accreditation for quality assurance under the ISO9001:2000 accreditation.

**Resolved:** (i) That the outcome of the inspection be noted.

(ii) That staff of the Building Control section be commended on their efforts to retain ISO9001:2000 accreditation.

**The Chairman had agreed to accept the Supplementary report of the Leader/Head of Legal and Strategic Services in relation to the Commencement of A Community Governance Review In Respect of the Unparished Areas of the City of Durham District.**

**41. COMMENCEMENT OF A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW IN RESPECT OF THE UNPARISHED AREAS OF THE CITY OF DURHAM DISTRICT**

The Leader of the Council and the Head of Legal and Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to seek the consent of Cabinet to the commencement of a Community Governance Review in respect of the unparished areas of the City of Durham District.

**Resolved:** (i) That the commencement of a community governance review in respect of the unparished area of the City of Durham District be approved.

(ii) That responsibility for conducting the community governance review be delegated to a Community Governance Review Group.

(iii) That the membership of the Community Governance Review Group consist of:-

|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Councillor Steve Laverick    | Pelaw & Gilesgate Ward |
| Councillor Sue Pitts (Chair) | Elvet Ward             |
| Councillor Anji Rae          | St Nicholas Ward       |

|                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Councillor Fraser Reynolds | Leader                             |
| Councillor Les Thomson     | Portfolio Holder for Communities   |
| Councillor Jeff Young      | Crossgate & Framwelgate Ward       |
| Councillor Brian Kinghorn  | Newton Hall South Ward             |
| Councillor Nigel Martin    | Nevilles Cross Ward                |
| Councillor Mamie Simmons   | Newton Hall North Ward             |
| Martin Dufferwiell         | Senior Democratic Support Officer  |
| Clare Greenlay             | Head of Legal & Strategic Services |
| Steve Ragg                 | Executive Officer, CDALC           |
| Mike Thompson              | Head of Community Services         |

(iv) That the Community Governance Review Group be authorised to utilise the Human Resources of the Council during the conduct of the Community Governance Review.

(v) That, subject to the Consent of Durham County Council as a consequence of the Business As Usual Protocol, the Community Governance Review Group be allocated a budget of £10,000 to conduct the review.

### **Reports from Scrutiny Panels**

#### **42. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL REVIEW OF COUNCIL GARAGES**

The Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007, considered the above report where it was recommended that the report be referred to Cabinet. A copy of the report had been circulated.

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

#### **43. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL SCRUTINY OF UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS OF GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS**

The Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007, considered the above report where it was recommended that the report be referred to Cabinet. A copy of the report had been circulated.

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

#### **44. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL REVIEW OF SCRUTINY TOPIC - BIODIVERSITY**

The Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007, considered the above report where it was recommended that the report be referred to Cabinet. A copy of the report had been circulated.

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

### **Reports for Information**

#### **45. ACCIDENT STATISTICS**

The Executive Director submitted the accident statistics for the year 2007/2008 detailed by section and accident type.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**46. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN CASES**

The Executive Director submitted a schedule of successful defences of complaints referred to the Commission for Local Administration in England.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**47. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**(a) Association of North East Councils**

Members were asked to note the re-appointment of Councillor Reynolds as the City Council's Representative and Councillor Woods as Substitute Representative on the Association of North East Councils.

**(b) North East Regional Assembly**

Members were asked to note the re-appointment of Councillor Woods as the City Council's Representative and Councillor Reynolds as Substitute Representative on the North East Regional Assembly.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

The Meeting terminated at 2.45 p.m.

Chair