

City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, 9th July, 2008, at 2.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Councillors Hopgood, Howarth, Kellett, Kelly, Kinghorn, Simmons, M.J.A. Smith, Stoddart, Turnbull, Wilkes, Wilkinson and Wolstenholme.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pitts declared a personal interest in Minute No. 103, Governance and Performance of Partnerships, and remained in the Meeting during consideration thereof.

90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

91. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th June, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Portfolio Member Recommendations or Items Requiring a Cabinet Decision

92. CUMULATIVE IMPACT SURVEY

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Head of Legal and Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to consider the report by Premier Licensing Consultants Limited in respect of the cumulative impact of licensed premises in Durham.

Resolved: (i) That the recommendations contained within the Consultants report be noted.

(ii) That the Portfolio Holder for the Environment be appointed to be the Nightsafe Member Champion and the City Centre Co-ordinator to be the officer Champion.

(iii) That the Council develop further relationships with other statutory agencies to ensure joint working, particularly in enforcement matters, in relation to licensed premises.

(iv) That the Council's licensing section build on existing relationships with Durham Constabulary and explore the possibility of setting up regular meetings with the constabulary with a view to sharing information and targeting enforcement appropriately.

93. REPORTING THE OUTCOMES OF A SURVEY INTO THE PROVISION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Head of Legal and Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to consider the report submitted by Transporting Planning (International) Limited in relation to the issue of unmet demand for Hackney Carriages.

Resolved: (i) That, in accordance with the recommendations from Transporting Planning (International) Limited, five additional hackney carriage licences be issued immediately to the first five applicants on the waiting list for hackney carriage licences.

(ii) That the five additional licences be subject to the same additional conditions and criteria approved by Cabinet on 21st February, 2007.

94. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN (LGO) COMPLAINT – BUILDING CONTROL

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Regeneration and the Head of Planning Services submitted a comprehensive report on the outcome of a complaint investigation in respect of The Barn, 5 Harehill Mews, Haswell Plough.

Resolved: That the report of the Local Government Ombudsman investigation and the terms of the settlement be agreed.

95. THE STAFFING (STRUCTURAL AND BOUNDARY CHANGES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING – GUIDANCE ON STAFFING ISSUES SUMMARY

The Portfolio Holder for Performance Management and the Director of Corporate Services submitted a comprehensive report that summarised the Staffing (Structural and Boundary Changes) (England) Regulations 2008 and Local Government Restructuring – Guidance on Staffing Issues.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted that would form the basis of consultation with the Trade Unions during the transition period of Local Government Review.

96. VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY/EARLY RETIREMENT SCHEME LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW IMPLICATIONS

The Portfolio Holder for Performance Management and the Director of Corporate Services submitted a comprehensive report to review the Council's Voluntary Redundancy/Early Retirement Scheme and its statement of Policy following the implementation of the Local Government (Structural and Boundary Changes) (Staffing) Regulations 2008.

Resolved: That the proposals in the report be approved specifically the revised Voluntary Redundancy/Early Retirement Scheme and the statement of policy circulated with the report.

Reports from Scrutiny Panels

**97. REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SCRUTINY PANEL
REVIEW OF SCRUTINY OF LEISURE SERVICES – 5 YEAR PLAN**

The Scrutiny Committee on 16th June, 2008, considered the above report where it was recommended that the report be referred to Cabinet. A copy of the report had been circulated.

Resolved: (i) That recommendations 4.1 and 4.2 be approved and adopted.

(ii) That recommendation 4.3 be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture.

**98. REPORT OF THE POLICY SCRUTINY PANEL
SCRUTINY OF EQUALITIES POLICIES**

The Scrutiny Committee on 16th June, 2008, 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.

**99. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
REVIEW OF SCRUTINY OF THE DECENT HOMES STANDARD**

The Scrutiny Committee on 16th June, 2008, 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

100. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The Director of Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to inform Cabinet of the progress made in strengthening the Council's risk management arrangements during 2007/08.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

101. REPORT OF VALUATION

The Head of Legal and Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to advise Cabinet of valuations following completion of various land transactions.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

102. ANNUAL REPORT OF PROPERTY SERVICES

The Head of Property Services submitted a comprehensive report to provide members with information on the performance of Property Services for the year 2007/2008.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

103. GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Director of Strategic Services submitted a comprehensive report to inform Members of the governance and performance of the significant partnerships the council had entered into.

Resolved: (i) That the robust governance arrangement of the partnerships the Council operates, their achievements and the contribution they made towards the Council's vision be noted.

(ii) That the progress that had been made in developing governance frameworks for partnerships be noted.

(iii) That the programme for future action outlined in the report be noted.

104. BOWBURN AND PARKHILL MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Head of Community Services submitted a comprehensive report on the first annual update of the Masterplan for Bowburn and Parkhill.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

105. IN PRIVATE

Portfolio Member Recommendations or Items Requiring a Cabinet Decision

106. **FREEMAN'S QUAY LEISURE CENTRE – PROPOSALS TO MARKET THE NEW LEISURE FACILITY AND TO PROMOTE THE NEW MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES FOR EXISTING LEISURE CENTRE MEMBERS**

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and the Head of Environment and Leisure Services submitted a comprehensive report to present a number of new Leisure Centre Membership initiatives which has been approved by the Freeman's Quay Steering Group.

Resolved: (i) That the Steering Group's approval of the marketing and promotional introductory offers for Freeman's Quay Lifestyle Fitness Memberships be noted.

(ii) That the staff discount being offered to all County wide local authority staff be agreed.

(iii) That the new membership packages for the Council's existing facilities be agreed.

(iv) That the Steering Group decision on parking be noted.

The Meeting terminated at 2.50 p.m.

Chair