

City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Tuesday 22nd July, 2008, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor Holland (in the Chair) and Councillors Bartle, Bell, Carr, Colledge, Cowper, Crooks, Dickie, Guy, Hopgood, Howarth, Jackson, Kellett, Kinghorn, Lightley, Lodge, Marsden, Mavin, Moderate, Norman, Pitts, Reynolds, Robinson, Simmons, Simpson, D Smith, M.J.A. Smith, Southwell, Stoddart, Turnbull, van Zwanenberg, Wilkes, Wilkinson, Woods, Wynn and Young.

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Freeman, Kelly, Laverick, Martin, Mitchell, Plews, Rae, Taylor, Walker, Walton and Wolstenholme.

124. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th June, 2008, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

125. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor wished Members and Officers an enjoyable break.

126. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

The petition by Durham City Amateur Swimming and Water Polo Club was withdrawn at their request.

127. NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice having been duly given Councillor Woods moved and Councillor Wilkinson seconded:-

"This council opposes the proposed closure of the post offices in Gilesgate and Brancepeth. Both these post offices are valuable amenities to the local communities and many people will be disadvantaged by their closure. We request that the Executive Director write to the National Consultation Team at the Post Office Ltd. to register the councils view that both these post offices should remain open."

Councillor Bell moved and Councillor Kellett Seconded:-

"This council opposes the proposed closure of the post offices in Gilesgate and Brancepeth. Both these post offices are valuable amenities to the local communities and many people will be disadvantaged by their closure. We request that the Executive Director write to the National Consultation Team at the Post Office Ltd. to register the councils view that both these post offices should remain open and the Council further notes that Liberal Democrats policy to part privatise the Royal Mail would lead to very many more closures in the future and this is to be condemned.

The AMENDMENT on being put was declared LOST.

The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION, on being put, was carried and it was RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

128. COUNCILLOR P.J. THOMPSON – RESIGNATION

Members were advised that Councillor P.J. Thompson had submitted his resignation as a City Councillor with immediate effect.

Councillor Bell advised Members that Councillor Turnbull would replace Councillor Thompson as the Labour Member on the Standards Committee and Councillor Laverick would be the replacement on the Policy Scrutiny Panel.

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That Councillor Turnbull replace Councillor Thompson on the Standards Committee.

(iii) That Councillor Laverick replace Councillor Thompson on the Policy Scrutiny Panel.

129. RECORDING OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS - EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL – 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2008, 8th DECEMBER, 2008 AND 2nd MARCH 2009

In accordance with Minute No. 82, 30th June, 2008, arrangements had been made for Extraordinary Meetings of the Council to be held in order to admit Sir Bobby Robson, Mr Fenwick Lawson and Dr Bill Bryson to be admitted as Honorary Freeman of the City.

Rule 23 of the Council Procedure Rules provided, inter alia, that the taking of photographs or the recording of any proceedings at meetings of the Council was prohibited without the express consent of the Council having first been obtained.

Resolved: That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 23, the Council consents to the taking of photographs during the ceremonial part of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Meetings of the Council to be held on 22nd September, 2008, 8th December 2008 and 2nd March 2009.

Report of the Director of Strategic Services

130. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2008

The Local Government Act 1999 required all best value authorities to prepare an annual Performance Plan. This statutory requirement provided an opportunity for the Authority to detail its:

- Strategic objectives and priorities for improvement which reflected the corporate/business planning processes and community strategy.
- Arrangements for addressing the Authority's improvement priorities and the outcomes that were expected to be achieved.
- Performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators, including targets for future performance

The Corporate Performance Plan 2008 combined both the Best Value Performance Plan and Corporate Plan, and had been produced in accordance with the above requirements.

Copies were available on the Council's website.

Resolved: That the content of the Corporate Performance Plan 2008 be agreed.

The Meeting terminated at 6.00 p.m.

Mayor