

## **Minutes**

### **Economic Scrutiny Panel**

**4<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, Belmont Community Centre**

**Present:** Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)  
and Councillors Bartle, Colledge, Kelly, Lightley and Marsden

**Also Present:** Mrs Diane Prested  
Mr Danny Harland, Durham County Council  
Mr Dave Lewin, Durham County Council  
Mr John McGovern, Durham County Council  
Councillors Robinson & Thompson

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Guy, Simmons, Simpson & Wilkes

#### **2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 were agreed as a true record.

#### **3. Scrutiny of Disabled Parking in the District**

Mr Harland and his colleagues from Durham County Council advised Members that their area of work covered on street parking, pay & display and park & ride. Also, new legislation had made it possible for County Council officers to enforce Blue Badge requirements, but only the police had the power to remove a Blue Badge. However, there is not a lot of abuse of disabled parking in Durham City.

Mr Harland advised the Panel that the County Council were pulling together a proposal for civil parking enforcement to relieve police to carry out other tasks. Members were very supportive of this proposal and stated that they would recommend this in the Disabled Parking Scrutiny report.

Mrs Prested advised the Panel that she had experienced problems after being dropped off at Claypath. The dropped kerb is not opposite the Gala Theatre, but on the corner of the road, this can be a harrowing experience at busy periods.

Members asked that the times and dates of the Access for All bus be given to the Police so that the loading bay in the Market place could be kept clear during the drop off and pick up times of the bus.

The Chair thanked Mr Harland, Mr McGovern and Mr Lewin for their attendance and the information they had given the Panel. The Panel gave their support for the County Council obtaining civil powers to decriminalise parking offences.

The Panel agreed that a recommendation should be added for Parish Councils to carry out a survey of disabled parking spaces within their parish and to dedicate a disabled parking bay at community centres where possible.

The Panel considered the draft report and advised of changes to the body of the report, changes to the wording of the current recommendations and added recommendations.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

The Chair informed the Panel that the Scrutiny of Tourism Report that had been deferred by Cabinet (05/06/07), for a report by the relevant Portfolio Holder and Officer. This report was now available and would be discussed by the Panel at the next meeting.

The Meeting Terminated 6.30 p.m.