

## City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Studio, Gala Theatre, on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2007 at 5.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Pape (in the Chair)  
and Councillors: Crathorne, Freeman, Hoggood, Howarth, Moderate, Robinson, Simmons, Simpson and Wolstenholme

**Also Present:** Councillors Carr, Kellett and Young.

### **573. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cummings.

### **574. MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **575. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman proposed that due to the proximity of the May elections the next meeting of Scrutiny Committee be cancelled. The Committee agreed with the proposal.

### **576. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, No. 58 which was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 and had no comments to make.

The Forward Plan No. 59, published on 19<sup>th</sup> March which was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007, was also circulated at the meeting. The Committee had no comments to make.

### **577. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING**

A copy of the schedule indicating the decisions taken by Portfolio Holders since the last Meeting is attached at Appendix A.

Members queried Portfolio Holder decision no. 1 and referred to the amount of rent arrears. Members asked why areas are allowed to accumulate into such high figures.

It was agreed that a written response be provided to Members.

### **578. CABINET DECISIONS 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2007 and 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2007**

The Cabinet reports had been noted and there were no items on which the Committee wished to comment.

**579. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES – REPORT OF SCRUTINY WORKING PARTY**

The Director of Legal & Administration reported to the Committee that the report of the Scrutiny Working party had been submitted to Council at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 and with the exception of one recommendation, the report has been accepted and endorsed.

**580. REPORT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

- Scrutiny of Gypsy/Travellers Sites --The Committee agreed that the report be submitted to Cabinet.

**581. REPORT OF ECONOMIC SCRUTINY PANEL**

- Scrutiny of Tourism – The Committee agreed that the report be submitted to Cabinet.

**582. REPORTS OF POLICY SCRUTINY PANEL**

- a). Working with Parish Councils – The Committee agreed that the report be submitted to Cabinet.
- b). Telephone Communications Systems – Update Report – The Committee agreed that the report be submitted to Cabinet
- c). Sickness Absence – Report of Review – The Committee agreed that the report be submitted to Cabinet.

**583. VERBAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS FROM SCRUTINY PANELS**

The Chairmen of the various Scrutiny Panels gave verbal reports on the progress of their respective Scrutiny topics.

**584. ALLOCATION OF TOPICS TO SCRUTINY PANELS**

The suggested topic of Disabled Parking was allocated to the Economic Scrutiny Panel.

**585. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair thanked the members of the Committee for their support over the two years of his Chairmanship. Members in return expressed their thanks to the Chair.

Meeting terminated at 6.00 p.m.

Chairman