

## City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Studio, Gala Theatre, on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 at 5.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair) and Councillors: Colledge, Freeman, Howarth, Mitchell, Moderate, Robinson, Simpson, Wilkes and Wolstenholme

**Also Present:** Councillor Marsden

### **58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors McDonnell and Walton,

### **59. MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **60. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed new Members of the Council to the Committee and reminded Members that amendments to the Scrutiny Handbook would be forwarded to them in due course in the Members' Courier.

The Chair advised Members of forthcoming training sessions to be delivered by INLOGOV in partnership with North East Councils at Blackwell Grange, Darlington. The training will consist of half day seminars to be held over three days. Members of the Committee agreed that a copy of the details be sent out to all Members of the Council.

### **61. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, No. 61 which was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2007. Councillor Wolstenholme (Chair of Environment Scrutiny Panel) put forward the 'Climate Change Report' as a suggestion for a future scrutiny topic from the Forward Plan for the Environment Scrutiny Panel. Members agreed that the 'Climate Change Report' be allocated to the Environment Scrutiny Panel Work Programme.

Councillor Robinson requested an update on the Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite project for the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **62. 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.

### **63. CABINET DECISIONS 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 and 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2007**

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

#### **64. REPORTS OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

- Review of Temporary Road Closures Sites --The Committee agreed that the report be submitted to Cabinet.
- Scrutiny of Riverbanks – The Committee requested the following amendments and additions be made to the Recommendations:-

##### Recommendation No.4

- That in order to help facilitate the work ongoing to achieve the Council Corporate Priorities of a “Capital City” (To Protect Heritage, City for Cultural, Recreation & Tourism, and to Enhance Local Economy), the City of Durham identify resources that can be utilised to provide practical measures to aid in the enhancement of the riverbanks.

##### Additional Recommendations

- The Panel suggests it would need a budget of circa £20,000 (as funds or services rendered) to be used in a way to act as a catalyst for other forms of external funding.
- *That the thorough cleaning and removal of waste alongside the river, around the peninsula continues to be undertaken twice yearly.*
- *That the Environment Agency is informed of the importance of some of the larger tree debris on the river to wildlife and that they should ensure non-organic waste and some of the smaller logs are removed periodically as per their normal procedures.*

Members agreed that subject to the inclusion of these amendments and additions the report be submitted to Cabinet.

#### **65. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Robinson expressed further concern over telephone communications. Members were reminded that this was the subject of an ongoing Scrutiny by the Policy Scrutiny Panel and a further Progress Report from the Head of Community Services would be forthcoming.

Meeting terminated at 6.15 p.m.

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**7 June 2007**  
**DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO MEMBERS**

No.	Portfolio Member	Nature of Decision	Date
1	Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr Seed of 21 Halliday Grove, Langley Moor enquiring if the council would consider selling to him land adjacent to his property which he currently rents from the council. Recommended that subject to contract and conditions an area of 133 sq m or thereabouts be offered to the Applicant on terms to be agreed by Council Valuer.	4.3.07
2	Councillor Reynolds	Application to purchase land adjacent to Swift House, 133 Braunespath Estate, New Brancepeth received from Mr & Mrs Chilton of Swift House for use as garden land. Recommended that the application be refused.	4.3.07
3	Councillor Jackson	Permission is sought to enter into a two year maintenance contract for all ICT server switch and communication equipment with Knowledge IT. Recommended enter into a two year contract with Knowledge IT (existing maintainers).	26.2.07
4	Councillor Rae	Application for Durham City Enterprise Grant by Alistair James Hudson t/a AJH Mobile Motor Services. Approval of £500 grant.	3.3.07
5	Councillor Rae	Application for Durham City Enterprise Grant by Peter Hart t/a Academy Plasterers. Approval of £500 grant.	2.3.07
6	Councillor Holland	Applications for Durham City Enterprise Grant by Kevin Carter 68 Pilgrims Way Gilesgate – Approval £500 David Greenwood Holme Eden, Newcastle Road, Crossgate Moor – Approval £500	9.3.07
7	Councillor Holland	Applications for Durham City Enterprise Grant by Simon Robinson 2 Garden Ave Durham – Approval of £500 grant Ed Nugent, Vicky Lawson-Brown, 51 The Avenue, Durham – Refusal of grant	9.3.07
8	Councillor Holland	Applications for Durham City Enterprise Grants by Elsie Brierley Jones, Suite N19A, Turdsale Business Park – Approval of £500 grant Lynne Hughes, 72 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall – Approval of £500 grant	9.3.07

		Mark Davies, 75 High Street South, Meadowfield – Approval £500 grant Andrea Marshall-Dixon, 3c Old Elvet, Durham – Approval £500 grant Zoe Willis/Amanda Brolly, Prospect House, Sacriston Lane, Witton Gilbert – Refusal of grant	
9	Councillor Reynolds	To agree Members attendance at the Royal Garden party 2007. Recommended that Councillors Kinghorn and Mrs Smith be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party	2.3.07
10	Councillor Southwell	To consider terms for renewal of an agreement with Prince Bishops Shopping Centre for City Councillors car parking provision. Recommended that the City Council enters into a further agreement with Prince Bishops for the use of 50 car parking spaces for City Councillors on the same terms as 2006/7 including the licence fee of £7,400 pa.	8.3.07
11	Councillor Reynolds	To consider at a meeting on site on 6 March 2007 an application made by the owner of the Paving Factory Front Street Coxhoe to acquire land opposite his premises in former Foundry Row for vehicle parking. Recommended that the application be refused.	14.3.07
12	Councillor Reynolds	To consider at a meeting on site on 6 March 2007 an application made by Solicitors representing the owner of 78 Park House Gardens, Sherburn Village for grant of rights of vehicular access between 78 and 79 Park House Gardens to enable parking to the rear of 78 Park House Gardens. Recommended that the applicant be offered a vehicular access licence granted on a yearly basis on terms to be agreed by the Council Valuer to enable off street parking to the rear of 78 Park House Gardens and the applicant to bear the Council's legal costs and surveyor's fees.	14.3.07
13	Councillor Holland	Application for Durham City Enterprise Grant received from Kim & Claire Forster t/a The Loves Hotel Broompark. Approval of £500 grant.	15.3.07
14	Councillor Holland	Application for Durham City Enterprise Grant received from Ian Philpot t/a Shake-a-Holic. Recommended refusal of grant.	15.3.07
15	Councillor Jackson	To consider a proposal to seek tenders for provision of property transaction valuation services to the City Council both in Right to Buy and Non-Right to Buy transactions Recommend that tenders be invited for the contract to be for an initial period	5.3.07

		commencing 1 May 2007 and ending on 31 March 2009 with an option at the Council's discretion to extend to 31 March 2011	
16	Councillor Van Zwanenberg	Permission is sought to enter into a one year contract for the provision of absence reporting from 1 April 2007. Five companies were invited to tender for the absence reporting contract. Two actually submitted bids – the present provider Diagnostic Health Solutions for £36,000 and BUPA for £43,000pa. Recommended that Diagnostic Health Solutions be retained for the duration of the contract.	8.3.07
17	Councillor Van Zwanenberg	Permission is sought to enter into a two year contract for the provision of Occupational Health Services from 1 April 2007. Seven companies were invited to submit for provision of occupational health services. Four companies submitted a tender Durham County Council for £19,095 pa, the present provider City of Sunderland Council for £19,200pa, Well Work for £22,224 pa and Company Health for £24,720 pa. Recommended that City of Sunderland is retained for the duration of the contract.	8.3.07
18	Councillor Reynolds	Application from Durham County Council enquiring if the Council would consider disposal of land at the junction of Finchale Road/Bek Road for the purpose of installing traffic signals. Recommend that the application be approved on terms to be agreed by the Council's Valuer	21.3.07
19	Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mrs Alison Brown of 20 Doric Road, New Brancepeth enquiring as to whether the Council would grant vehicular access over land adjacent to her property. Recommend that the application be approved subject to compliance with certain conditions	21.3.07
20	Councillor Reynolds	Application to purchase land adjoining to the rear of 1 Ushaw Villas, Ushaw Moor, by Mr & Mrs Moyse of 1 Ushaw Villas. Land currently garden for 2 Ushaw Villas, intend to use the land solely for garden use. Recommended that the application be refused.	23.3.07
21	Councillor Reynolds	Application for council owned land to the rear of 9 Long Acres, Gilesgate, Durham from Mr Jeffries of 9 Long Acres, for consideration by the Council for disposal of land at the rear of his property for garden use. Normally the procedure would be to refuse these types of application but as the land is already fenced off and disposal would be in effect bringing the applicants boundary in line with those of	23.3.07

		the adjoining properties officers have recommended that this application be considered favourably by members. Recommended that the application be approved	
22	Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £250 received from:- Gary Musgrave t/a Apache Home Improvements Recommend approval of grant	28.3.07
23	Councillor Reynolds	Application for grant of £609 to West Rainton and Leamside Community Association from the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund for the purchase and installation of main entrance/fire exit doors at Jubilee Hall Recommend approval of the grant on the condition that Association undertakes work and requests payment by 30 September 2007 and secures additional funding from other sources	5.4.07
24	Councillor Reynolds	Application for grant of £4,133.96 to New Durham Residents Association from the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund for the purchase and installation of lighting columns in the car park, play and multi-games area and adjacent footpath at the Pelaw View Centre, Sherburn Road. Recommend approval of the grant on condition that Association undertakes work and requests payment by 30 September 2007	5.4.07
25	Councillor Reynolds	Application for grant of £868 to Durham Gingerbread from the Flourishing Communities Fund for the purchase of play and games equipment to be used at Belmont Parish Hall Recommend approval of grant	5.4.07
26	Councillor Reynolds	Application for grant of £1,000 be awarded to Belmont Ladies Choir to purchase an electric piano Recommend approval of grant on condition that piano is purchased and a request for payment is made by 30 September 2007 and additional sums are raised from Choir's own funds	5.4.07
27	Councillor Southwell	Application received from various Over 60's clubs for a grant of £200 per village Recommend approval that each organisation be granted £200 or that it be split if more than one organisation exists in one area and that should an application be received from an organisation within an area which at present does not receive a grant, they be offered a grant of £200	5.4.07

28	Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr McKibbin of 31 William Street, Bowburn enquiring whether the Council would consider selling to him land to the rear of his property for use solely as garden. Recommend that the application be refused	5.4.07
29	Councillor Reynolds	Request for consideration being given to the granting of a new 5 year Lease for Thornley Surgery Practice at 182 Woodland Crescent, Kelloe subject to rent review. Recommend agreement to the granting of a new 5 year Lease to the Thornley Surgery Practice	5.4.07
30	Councillor Holland	Application received from Mr Paul Gault of 53 South Lea, Witton Gilbert enquiring whether the Council would be willing to dispose of an area of land adjoining his property in order for him to construct a double garage. Mr Gault has previously purchased a strip of land and there is currently a single wooden garage located there. Recommend refusal of application	5.4.07
31	Councillor Woods	Application received from Wireless Promotions enquiring if the Council would allow the siting of a Climate Dome on the Market Place from Tuesday, 29 May until Saturday, 2 June 2007 to make the public aware of climate change. Recommend approval of application	29.3.07
32	Councillor Rae	Applications received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000 as follows:- Michelle Pennington t/a SeaShells Health & Beauty Studio - £500 Graeme Sybenga t/a MRU Computers £500 Recommend approval of grants as aboe	12.4.07
33	Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr R Henderson of 42 Gairlock Drive, Lambton, Washington Tyne & Wear, NE38 0DS enquiring if the Council would consider selling to him land adjoining to the rear of nos. 25 & 26 Station Road, West Rainton. Mr Henderson is purchasing No. 26 Station Road and wishes to use the additional land as additional garden. Recommend refusal of application	16.4.07
34	Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr Vickerstaff of 36 Chalfont Way, Meadowfield enquiring if the Council would consider selling to him land adjacent to his property for garden use. Recommend that the application be put through the full application procedure	18.4.07
35	Councillor Reynolds	Application to resolve encroachment onto Council land at 20 Lowlands Road, Brandon. Recommend sale of 82 sq. metres of land to	16.4.07

		the applicants for the price of £600, the parties to bear their own legal and other costs	
36	Councillor Reynolds	Consideration of implementation of a Rent Review for Ushaw Moor Cricket Club and representations made by the Cricket Club in response to a Rent Review Trigger Notice which has been served. Recommend a nominal rent increase of 10% above current rent, producing £500 p.a. for 5 years commencing 1 October 2007	6.4.07
37	Councillor Jackson	Consideration of Tenders received for the provision of Right to Buy property transaction valuation services to the City Council for the period commencing 1 May 2007 to 31 March 2009 and to award the contact for these services. Recommend that the contract be awarded to Emperor Property Management Limited	20.4.07
38	Councillor Jackson	Consideration of Tenders received for the provision of Non-Right to Buy property transaction valuation services to the City Council for the period commencing 1 May 2007 to 31 March 2009 and to award the contract for these services Recommend that the contract be awarded to J W Wood, Chartered Surveyors	20.4.07
39	Councillor Holland	Application received for a Durham City Enterprise Grant from the following:- Jeffrey Blackburn t/a Abbey Landscapes - £500 Susan Corke & Sarah Marsh t/a Enterprise - £500 Recommend approval of applications	20.4.07
40	Councillor Rae	SRB6 Improving the Heart of the Villages in relation to Amend Offer Letter Three Triangles to Kelloe Welfare Corner - £3,000.00 Kelloe Welfare Corner - £4,000.00 West Rainton & Leamside Community Association - £1,715.00 Recommend approval	13.2.07
41	Councillor Woods	Temporary Closure of roads on Saturday, 9 June 2007 between the hours of 9.00 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. for a parade organised by Durham University – Market Place, Saddler Street, New Elvet, Old Elvet, Territorial Lane Recommend temporary road closure be granted	25.4.07
42	Councillor Woods	Authorisation of temporary closure of Back Sivler Street on 18 May 2007 between 5.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. for a Durham City Arts Event. Recommend temporary road closure be granted	25.4.07



43	Councillor Woods	Authorisation of temporary closure of the B6291 from the Junction of the Avenue on to the C67 in a Northerly direction of the Front Street to the Junction of Coxhoe Amenities Site on Saturday, 14 July 2007 between the hours of 9.45 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. for the purpose of a procession Recommend temporary road closure be granted	26.4.07
44	Councillor Woods	Authorisation of temporary closure of the following roads on Saturday, 7 July 2007 between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. and Sunday, 8 July 2007 between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. for the purpose of Summer Festival – Market Place, Saddler Street, North & South Bailey, Palace Green, Owengate, Dun Cow Lane, Bow Land and Silver Street. Recommend that the temporary road closure be granted	26.4.07
45	Councillor Woods	Authorisation of temporary closure of the A177 from the Cooperage to Bowburn Post Office, Bow Street and Bede Terrace South, Bede Terrace North, George Street and Dallymore Drive on Saturday, 14 July between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. for the purpose of a procession. Recommend that a temporary road closure be granted	26.4.07
46	Councillor Woods	To choose an option for off-street parking enforcement Recommend Option 2 – Request Durham County Council to include off-street parking enforcement in the new contract (to commence October 2007)	25.4.07
47	Councillor Reynolds	Approval sought for contract between City Council and ERS to conduct a referendum on the Unitary Status Submission. Recommended that approval be given to enter into a contract and to waive the Contract Procedure Rule 8(2)(d).	8.5.07
48	Councillor Reynolds	Attendance at Parliamentary Launch of N8 on Tuesday 5 June in Members' Dining Room House of Commons by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Reynolds. No fee is attached. Agreement by B Spears.	10.5.07