

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Studio, Gala Theatre, on Thursday, 6th December, 2007 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Howarth (in the Chair)
and Councillors Colledge, Freeman, Mitchell, Simpson and Wolstenholme.

Also Present: Councillor Kellett

398. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hopgood, McDonnell, Moderate, Robinson and Walton.

399. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of 25th October, 2007, were confirmed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Freeman being added to the list of Councillors present.

400. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair informed Members that Members who queried Portfolio Holder Decisions at the meeting held on 25th October had received a reply

The Chair informed Members that a meeting of County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Member Network was due to take place on Friday, 7th December, 2007, looking at public transport.

Also, the Chair informed Members that a meeting of the Scrutiny on Childrens' Trust looking specifically at those children/young adults not in education or training (NEETS) would be taking place. It is hoped that reports from both joint scrutiny projects would be brought to this committee in due course.

401. SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS

(a) Policy Scrutiny Panel – Scrutiny of Members' online

Members suggested that an additional recommendation should be included in the report stating that all Members receive a copy of an agenda for every meeting of the Council.

Resolved: That subject to the Panel's approval, this recommendation should be included.

(b) Environment Scrutiny Panel – Review of Scrutiny of Recycling, Fly-Tipping & Litterpickers

Resolved: That the report be sent to Cabinet for consideration.

402. CABINET DECISIONS

- 12 November, 2007
- 19 November, 2007
- 28 November, 2007

With regard to the Cabinet meeting held on 28th November, 2007, Members raised the Cabinet decision to end door to door rent collection. Members requested that the issue be addressed of additional community support being put in place to minimise the community impact/social welfare aspect of the ending of door to door rent collection. Members further requested that the Portfolio Holder report to the Committee the impact of this aspect of the report after three months.

403. VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS

An update was given by each Panel Chair on the progress of their Panel business.

404. FORWARD PLAN

Members suggested that the Kerbside Recycling Contract be scrutinised 6 months after commencement.

Members asked that the Head of Legal & Strategic Services be invited to give a presentation to the Scrutiny Committee on the new Licensing Policy to highlight differences with the previous Policy and why changes were made.

405. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

In relation to decision number 4, Members requested details relating to time/costs of the respective leases of Mandale Park, Saddler Street and High Street. It was agreed that a written response be requested from the Portfolio Holder.

406. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair and Members of the Committee agreed that a letter be sent to the Leader of the Council asking that Members be issued with a list of correct and updated staff contact details.

Meeting terminated 6.15 p.m.

Chairman