

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Studio, Gala Theatre, on Thursday, 24th January, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)
and Councillors Colledge, Freeman, Howarth, Mitchell, Robinson, Simpson and Walton

Also Present: Councillors Carr, Kellett, Kelly, Marsden, Turnbull, Stoddart and Young

469. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McDonnell, Wilkes and Wolstenholme.

470. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of 6th December, 2007, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

471. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair asked Members to clarify whether they wished to invite the Head of Legal & Strategic Services and the Licensing Manager to speak to the Committee as regards the new Licensing Policy. Member agreed that the Licensing Manager should be invited to speak, with the Head of Legal & Strategic Services being invited as a guest.

The Chair informed Members of the figures requested by the Committee as regards the leases of offices at Mandale Park, Saddler Street and High Street, Durham. Members noted the figures and requested that hard copies be circulated to Committee Members.

The Chair informed Members that she would reiterate the Committee's request to the Leader of the Council asking that Members be issued with a list of correct and updated staff contact details.

The Chair would follow up the issue of feedback being provided to Scrutiny from Portfolio Holder and Lead Officers as regards Scrutiny Report recommendations. The Chair would speak to the Leader of the Council and O.M.T. would be asked for a response. Members agreed, and requested that the list of reports where feedback had not been given be circulated to the Committee.

Members were reminded as regards the Joint Scrutiny working groups relating to Public Transport and NEETS (Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training). Members were informed that the Chair would represent the City of Durham at an upcoming meeting of the County and District Councils Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at the Implementation Executive for the new Unitary Authority and would report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Members were reminded as regards the upcoming Financial Training sessions organised by the City of Durham's Financial Services Department. Members were also asked whether they wished to have Training as a standing agenda item. Members agreed this was a good idea, but noted that political balance should be maintained and that the requisite travelling expenses should be made available. Clarification as regards which budget travelling and subsistence would be made payable from would be sought and reported back to the next meeting.

Note: *Councillor Carr entered the meeting at 5.35 p.m.*

472. SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS

Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Review of Council House Repairs

Members noted the report but requested that an issue relating to the Emergency Call Out Procedure be brought to the attention of Property Services. Members agreed that action was required and that Members were informed at the next meeting of what action had been taken.

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

473. CABINET DECISIONS

- **3rd December, 2007**
- **17th December, 2007**
- **9th January, 2007**
- **14th January, 2007**

The Cabinet reports had been noted. Councillor Howarth raised the Sustainable Development Policy, which had been presented to Cabinet on the 14th January as being a possible subject for future Scrutiny.

474. VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS

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

475. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan No. 68, which was effective from 1st December, 2007, and had no comments to make. The Chairman informed Members of the changes made within the recently published Forward Plan No. 69.

476. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

Councillor Mitchell requested further clarification as regards Portfolio Holder Decision No. 1 relating to costs for the bronze sculpture "The Journey".

Councillor Robinson requested clarification as regards Portfolio Holder Decision No. 8 relating to the revised cost figure contained within the decision.

Resolved: That a written response be requested from the relevant Portfolio Holder in regard to each of these queries.

477. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Meeting terminated 6.05 p.m.

Chair