

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall, on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)  
and Councillors Colledge, Howarth, McDonnell, Moderate, Robinson and Wolstenholme

**Also Present:** Councillors Kellett, Kelly and Marsden

Jane Kevan – Licensing Manager, City of Durham

. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simpson and Walton.

. **PRESENTATION BY THE LICENSING MANAGER ON CHANGES TO THE CITY OF DURHAM LICENSING POLICY**

Mrs Jane Kevan, Licensing Manager gave Members a comprehensive overview of changes to the City of Durham Licensing Policy.

After a question and answer session, the Chairman thanked Mrs Kevan, for a very informative Presentation.

. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 and the Special Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to an amendment to Minute 473 as set out below in bold type.

**“473. CABINET DECISIONS**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007**
- **17<sup>th</sup> December, 2007**
- **9<sup>th</sup> January, 2007**
- **14<sup>th</sup> January, 2007**

*The Cabinet reports had been noted. Councillor Howarth raised **some items from the Sustainable Development Policy**, which had been presented to Cabinet on the 14<sup>th</sup> January as being possible subjects for future Scrutiny.”*

. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chair updated Members on the improved level of feedback received from Portfolio Holders and Senior Officers regarding Scrutiny Reports.

The Chair also informed Members of the specific responses to Portfolio Holder Decision queries raised at the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 with the Members who raised the queries having received a written reply.

Members were given information as to the latest developments in relation to the County Durham Joint Scrutiny meetings taking place regarding NEETs, Public Transport and issues relating to the Local Government Review.

The position regarding travelling expenses relating to training for Scrutiny Members was clarified, with Members noting that any travelling expense claims should be submitted on the regular forms as usual. The Chair informed Members that therefore the travelling expenses would not come directly from the Scrutiny Training budget.

Due to the upcoming elections, the Chair informed Members that the meetings of the Policy Scrutiny Panel and Environment Scrutiny Panel to be held 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2008 respectively, were to be cancelled.

## **SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS**

### **Economic Scrutiny Panel – Review of CCTV**

Copies of an amended report were circulated to Members for their consideration. The slight amendment was to recommendation 3.1 such that it read:

*“3.1 That the Council support recommendations 1,2,3 & 5 made in the Durham City CCTV System: A Review by Durham Constabulary (Appendix A).”*

**Resolved:** That, subject to the amendment as set out above, the report be sent to Cabinet for consideration.

### **Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Review of Homelessness**

Copies of an amended report were circulated to Members for their consideration. Councillor Howarth informed Members of the relevant additions and the reasons for these amendments.

**Resolved:** That, subject to the amendments as set out in the amended report, the report be sent to Cabinet for consideration.

### **Environment Scrutiny Panel – Climate Change**

Copies of the report were circulated with the Agenda papers for Members consideration.

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

## **CABINET DECISIONS**

- **13<sup>th</sup> February, 2008**
- **5<sup>th</sup> March, 2008**
- **19<sup>th</sup> March, 2008**

The Cabinet reports had been noted. The Chair and Vice-Chair informed Members that they would be holding discussions regarding the future role of Scrutiny at the City of Durham, in the period prior to the vesting of the new Unitary Authority in April, 2009.

## **VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS**

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

## **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan No. 71, which was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008, and had no comments to make.

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

Councillor Robinson requested clarification as regards a request to the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund which had not yet received a response from the Portfolio Holder. Councillor Robinson highlighted Portfolio Holder Decisions Nos. 11, 12 and 13, as example of where these grants had been approved.

Councillor Robinson also requested clarification relating to two Portfolio Holder Decisions, Nos. 19 and 22 relating the sale of Council owned land and a satisfactory explanation was given by the Officer in attendance at the meeting.

**Resolved:** That a written response be requested from the relevant Portfolio Holder in regard to the outstanding query set out above.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Meeting terminated 6.30 p.m.

Chair