

**City of Durham**

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall, on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

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

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

**608. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robinson and Wolstenholme

**609. MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record.

**610. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chair advised that Members should have received an A4 update of contacts, and advised that it would have been a waste of money to change the key contacts booklet.

The Chair advised the Committee that following a request from Councillor Robinson at the last meeting relating to Portfolio Holder Decisions made concerning Flourishing Community grants awarded a response had been received informing her that the authority had written to several Parish Clerks. Councillor Mitchell asked for clarification of which parishes had been advised and what was the reason for this.

The Chair advised members that the County Durham Joint Scrutiny on children and young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has now been completed, a copy of the report will be placed in the Members' Room and a copy of the recommendations would be circulated.

The Vice Chair advised members that the County Durham Joint Scrutiny on Transport was coming to a conclusion. A meeting had taken place to confirm the recommendations and a revised copy would be sent to those involved electronically. Due to the size of the report a copy will be placed in the Members' Room for information and a copy of conclusions and recommendation would be circulated.

**NOTE:** 5.35 p.m. Councillor Freeman joined the meeting

**611. SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS**

**Environment Scrutiny Panel – Review of Biodiversity**

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

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

**Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Scrutiny of Unauthorised Encampments of Gypsies and Travellers –**

An amended version of the report was circulated. The Committee were informed by the Chair of Community Services Scrutiny Panel that an additional recommendation had been added to the report:-

5.8 *That this Report and the Report on Gypsy and Traveller Permanent Encampments, approved by Cabinet in September 2007, together with all recommendations, be brought to the attention of the Unitary Authority with a view to them being endorsed within the context of the County Council's overarching Scrutiny of Gypsy and Traveller Provision. In particular we strongly recommend that the permanent site at Adventure Lane, West Rainton, should be included in any programme of refurbishment implemented by the new authority.*

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

### **Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Review of Council Garages**

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

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

## **612. CABINET DECISIONS**

- **16<sup>th</sup> April, 2008**

The Cabinet reports had been noted.

## **613. VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS**

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

## **614. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan No. 72, which had been circulated at the meeting and was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2008, and had no comments to make.

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

The Committee considered the Portfolio Holders Decisions and noted the report and had no comments to make.

**Note:** *Councillor Colledge declared a personal interest in Portfolio Holder Decision no. 10 but remained in the meeting during the consideration thereof.*

## **616. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Meeting terminated at 5.55 pm