# City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall, on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2008, at 5.30 p.m.

# **Present:** Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)

and Councillors Carr, Colledge, Howarth, Kelly, Mitchell, Turnbull, Walton, Wilkes and Wilkinson.

Also Present: Councillors Cowper, Kellett, Marsden, Stoddart and Young.

## 53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Freeman, McDonnell, Rae and Robinson.

### 54. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 55. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair advised Members that the Leader had answered the Committee's query regarding letters to parish councils and had stated that letters had been sent to those parish councils which had approached the City Council. Councillor Mitchell asked for clarification on which Parish Councils had received the letters. The Chair advised that this information would be sought.

The Chair informed Members that the last Meeting where business could be conducted and which would be effective would be 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. The Chair asked the Committee if they would agree to the cancelling of all Scrutiny meetings in February, 2009 and March, 2009. The last date for Scrutiny Committee would be 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, and the last date for Cabinet would be 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.

Councillor Mitchell asked if there would be Portfolio Holder Decisions taken after this date and if so how would those decisions be Scrutinised.

Councillor Kellett asked what would happen to reports between Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, and vesting day.

Members asked if there would be additional Cabinet dates and were informed that the Chair had already checked on this with the Leader of the Council and had been advised that this would not be the case.

Councillor Turnbull asked that a presentation be given on the likely effects of LGR on the City Council's workforce as no feedback had yet been given to Scrutiny Committee. Members also asked for clarification on the numbers of staff that had already left.

The Chair advised that free training was available to all Scrutiny Members, on Community Engagement. The training would take place on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2008, at 2:00 pm at County Hall.

The Chair informed Members that an update on the Swimming Pool would go to July Cabinet.

The Chair advised Members that she would be meeting with the Unitary Council's Chair of Overview and Scrutiny to discuss the establishment of a mechanism to feed City of Durham Scrutiny Recommendations through to the new Unitary Council. The Chair would report back to this Committee.

## 56. SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS

### Economic Scrutiny Panel – Review of Leisure Services

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

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

### Policy Scrutiny Panel – Scrutiny of Equalities Policies

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 – Review of Decent Homes Standard**

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

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

### 57. CABINET DECISIONS

### • 4 June, 2008

The Cabinet reports had been noted.

#### 58. VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS

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

Councillor Turnbull asked that a vote of thanks be sent to Councillor Wolstenholme for his work over the last five years as Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

#### 59. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan No. 72, which had been circulated at the meeting and was effective from 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2008, and had no comments to make.

## 60. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

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

### 61. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The Meeting terminated at 6.10 p.m.