

## City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall, on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2008, at 5.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)  
and Councillors Carr, Colledge, Freeman, Howarth, Kelly, McDonnell, Rae, Robinson, Simpson, Turnbull, Wilkes and Wilkinson.

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

### 113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Walton.

### 114. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record.

### 115. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair advised Members that she had received clarification from the Leader of the Council of which Parish Councils had received funding for Parish Plans, these were Belmont, Sherburn, Pittington, Cassop cum Quarrington and Witton Gilbert.

The Chair informed Members that Portfolio Holder Decisions would continue to be made for the duration of the Authority and therefore all scheduled Scrutiny Committee dates would be kept in place in order to consider those decisions.

The Chair advised Members that she would be attending a meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Members and Officer Network on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 at County Hall. The topic for discussion would be how scrutiny recommendations can be fed into the Unitary Authority's system.

The Chair read out to Members a letter from the Executive Director relating to the issues raised at the last meeting concerning Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre. The letter advised Members that the project was on time and within budget and that this had been a joint City Council and D.V.R.C. project therefore it was not within the remit of the Committee to scrutinise D.V.R.C. budgets. A request was made and it was agreed that all Members receive a copy of the Executive Director's letter.

### 116. CABINET DECISIONS

There were no Cabinet decisions on which Members wished to comment. The Chair advised Members that scrutiny reports on Decent Homes and Equalities had been accepted and adopted however, the Review of Leisure Services had had one of its recommendations rejected. The Portfolio Holder would report back on the rejected recommendation.

### 117. SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS

#### a). Policy Scrutiny Panel – Telephone Communications Update

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

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

**b). Policy Scrutiny Panel – Review of Sickness Absence**

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

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

**118. VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS**

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

**119. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**a) Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/2008**

Copies of the Annual Scrutiny report had been circulated for Members' consideration

**Resolved:** Members agreed that the Annual Report be forwarded to Council for consideration

**b). County Durham Joint Overview and Scrutiny Member Network – Transport Report**

Due to the size of the document a copy of the report had been placed in the Members' Room for information.

**Resolved:** That the report be forwarded to Cabinet for information only.

**120. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan No. 74, which had been circulated at the meeting and was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2008, and had no comments to make.

**121. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING**

The Committee considered the Portfolio Holder Decisions and noted the report. Members asked for further information on decision No.5 and No.6 and it was agreed that a letter of clarification be requested from the Leader of the Council.

**122. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

Meeting terminated at 6.16 p.m.

Chair