

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall, on Monday, 15th September, 2008, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)
and Councillors Carr, Colledge, Kelly, McDonnell, Robinson, Turnbull and Walton

Also Present: Councillors Cowper, Kellett, Kinghorn, Marsden, Plews, Smith and Stoddart
The Director of Corporate Services was also in attendance

179. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Howarth, Wilkinson and Wilkes

180. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of 14th July, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record.

The Chair referred to Minute 116, Cabinet Decisions, and advised the Committee that no response had been received from the Portfolio Holder relating to the Scrutiny report on the Review of Leisure Services. The Chair would be pursuing this issue.

The Chair referred to Minute 121, Portfolio Holder Decisions and read out a response from the Leader to the questions asked. The Chair asked for a copy of the letter be sent to the relevant members of the Committee.

NOTE: 5.31 p.m. Councillor Kelly joined the meeting

181. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair advised the Committee that she had attended a Joint Scrutiny Network meeting in August at County Hall and advised the Network of the City's workload. This exercise was to ensure that the work and appropriate Recommendations of Scrutiny at Durham City are carried forward to the Unitary Authority.

182. UPDATE ON L.G.R. IMPLICATIONS FOR WORKFORCE

Members received an update on LGR Implications for the Workforce from the Director of Corporate Services. The Committee were informed that George Garlick had been appointed as Chief Executive of the Unitary Authority. Durham County Council had endorsed the Corporate structure with six Corporate Director posts. Two of the posts had been filled by "slotting-in" and the other four posts were currently being advertised, the next stage would be to look at the structure at Heads of Service level.

NOTE: 5.35p.m. Councillor Mitchell joined the meeting

City of Durham staff had been kept informed of developments through Communication Matters which came directly from the Executive Director also City of Durham staff could access the Durham County Council website for information and LGR was a standing item on all team briefing agenda.

The Director of Corporate Services advised the Committee that regular meetings had and will continue to take place with Union representatives.

183. SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS

a). Economic Scrutiny Panel – Review of Tourism

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

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

b). Environment Scrutiny Panel -- Review of Neighbourhood Wardens

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

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

c). Environment Scrutiny Panel – Sustainable Procurement Policy & Carbon Emissions from the Council's Fleet of Vehicles

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

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

d). Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Scrutiny of Allocations Policy

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

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

184. CABINET DECISIONS

The Committee noted the Cabinet report and there were no items they wished to discuss

185. VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS

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

Members requested that the Executive Director and Portfolio Holder for Finance attend the next Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss the final cost of the Swimming Pool. A request was also made for the names of the Elected Members who had sat on the Swimming Pool Project Steering Group.

186. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan No. 76, which had been circulated at the meeting and was effective from 1st September, 2008, and had no comments to make.

187. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

The Committee considered the Portfolio Holder Decisions and noted the report.

Cllr. Kelly, requested an update in relation to Decision No.8.
It was agreed that a written response be sent direct to Cllr. Kelly.

188. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be discussed.

Meeting terminated at 6.25 pm

Chair