

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall, on Monday, 8th December, 2008, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)
and Councillors Howarth, Kelly, McDonnell, Mitchell, Rae, Simpson, Turnbull, Walton, Wilkes and Wilkinson.

Also Present: Councillors Kellett, Marsden, D. Smith and Young.

299. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carr, Colledge, Freeman and Turnbull

300. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 27th October were confirmed as a correct record.

301. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked all who had been involved in the Scrutiny process at the City of Durham, the Chair presented Democratic Support on behalf of the Chairs and Vice Chairs with tokens of their appreciation for their hard work and dedication to Scrutiny.

Councillor Marsden supported by other Members thanked all the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs for their contribution of a buffet and the presentation to the clerks.

Copies of the final panel minutes had been circulated for Members approval.

302. VERBAL REPORTS OF PANEL CHAIRS

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

303. SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS

a). Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Review of Scrutiny of Playing Pitch Strategy

Copies of the report had been circulated for Members consideration. Members suggested that the following amendments be made to the recommendations:

4.3.1. That particular attention be given to increasing the availability and improving facilities for female players.

4.3.6. That the new Unitary Authority be asked to give consideration to the provision of changing facilities for all at those sites where no provision currently exists.

Resolved: That subject to the inclusion of the amendments the report be sent to Cabinet for consideration.

b). Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Review Scrutiny of Council House Repairs

Copies of the report had been circulated for Members consideration.

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

c). Environment Scrutiny Panel – Review of Scrutiny of Kerbside Recycling

Copies of the report had been circulated for Members consideration.

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

d). Policy Scrutiny Panel – Review of Scrutiny of Sickness Absence

Copies of the report had been circulated for Members consideration.

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

e). Policy Scrutiny Panel – Review of Scrutiny of Equalities Policy

Copies of the report had been circulated for Members consideration.

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

f). Policy Scrutiny Panel – Review of Scrutiny of Working with Parish Council's

Copies of the report had been circulated for Members consideration.

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

g). Economic Scrutiny Panel – Review of Economic and Community Development

Copies of the report had been circulated for Members consideration.

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

304. CABINET DECISIONS

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

305. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

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

306. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

Chair

Meeting terminated 6.05 p.m.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20th January, 2009

DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

No.	Portfolio Member	Nature of Decision	Date
1	Councillor Southwell	An application has been received for financial assistance from The Local Authority Action for Southern Africa (LAACTSA) to enable them to continue their work to promote and support economic development in South & Southern Africa Recommend that a donation of £100 be made to the LAACTSA for the financial year 2008/09	26.11.08
2	Councillor Southwell	Application for financial assistance received from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Washington for financial assistance towards the running costs etc for the trust whose aim is the conservation of wetlands and wildfowl. The trust has expressed appreciation for support given by this authority over previous years. Provision for a donation of £150 was included in the general donations budget for 2008/9 in anticipation of their application. Recommended to donate £150 from the general donations budget.	2.12.08
3	Councillor Southwell	Application for financial assistance received from Durham Amateur Football Trust to hold a youth festival for football in 2009. The event will be held at Crook Town Football Club in July and will involve four under 14 teams. The idea behind the festival is to re-enact the Glory Days of the FA Amateur Cup. Recommended that a donation of £50 be made to Durham Amateur Football Trust.	2.12.08
4	Councillor Reynolds	An application has been received from Mr Rome of 9 Dominion Road, Brandon enquiring if the Council would consider selling to him land to the rear of his property for garden use. Mr Rome had previously applied on 2 occasions and the application had been refused. Recommended that the application be refused	2.12.08
5	Councillor Reynolds	An application has been received from Mr Crowther and Miss Thompson enquiring if the Council would consider selling to them a landlocked area of land to the rear of their property for use as additional garden land. Recommended that subject to contract and conditions an area of 29 sq. metres or thereabouts be offered to the applicants on terms to be agreed by the Council's Valuer	10.12.08
6	Councillor Southwell	Application by St John's college South Bailey in relation to concert in honour of St John's college 100 th anniversary in February 2009 and seeking financial support to help fund it. All profits from ticket sales will be shared between the college's centenary fund and the Edith Jackson Trust which assists in helping build schools in Sudan. The City's logo will appear on the programme if a donation of £100 is offered. Recommended that a donation of £100 be made.	12.12.08

7	Councillor Reynolds	Application in relation to a grant from the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund from Durham Wildlife Trust to contribute towards the costs of advertising and recruiting volunteers and training. Recommended that a grant of £5,000 be granted as the application meets the eligibility criteria.	16.12.08
8	Councillor Reynolds	Application in relation to a grant from the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund from Pitlington Village Hall Association for replacement of chairs. Recommended to award a grant of £3,926.20 as the application meets the criteria.	16.12.08
9	Councillor Reynolds	Application in relation to a grant from the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund from Durham City Centre Youth Project to support a project which will include the production of a DVD organisation of a Durham Skate Park Event, training and a skate park tour. Recommended that a grant of £4,717 be awarded as the application meets the criteria.	16.12.08
10	Councillor Reynolds	Application in relation to a grant from the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund from West Rainton & Leamside Community Association for the replacement of existing kitchen. Recommended that a grant of £5,000 be awarded as the application meets the criteria.	16.12.08
11	Councillor Reynolds	Application in relation to a grant from the Flourishing Communities (Small Grants) Fund from St Margaret's Church to update its historic guide and information booklet of the church and history of Durham. Recommended to award a grant of £2,350 as the application meets the criteria	16.12.08
12	Councillor Van Zwanenberg (Durham City Vision)	To confirm in accordance with contract Procedure Rule 4.2 the acceptance of a tender submission from EDAW PLC to carry out a Development Design Brief for the North Place area of Durham City centre costing £24,915 in total. The Contract Procedure Rules provide Rule 4.2 that where a contract has a value of between £5,001 and £50,000 a minimum of four quotations should be sought. Five quotations were received and the Portfolio Holder agrees to appoint EDAW Plc for the preparation of a Development Brief.	17.12.08