

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON  
HELD ON THURSDAY 5 JULY 2007**

Present:- Councillor R Taylor (Chair)

Councillors Mrs. M. Baird, B. Bates, E. Bell, Mrs. G. Bleasdale, B. Burn, A. Collinson, Mrs. E.M. Connor, R. Crute, R. Davison, Mrs. S. Forster, Mrs. J. Freak, J. Haggan, H. High, A.J. Holmes, Mrs. E. Huntington, G. Johnson, Mrs. A.E. Laing, T. Longstaff, D. Maddison, Mrs. J. Maitland, Mrs. S. Mason, K. McGonnell, D. Milsom, D. Myers, A. Napier, C. Patching, G. Pinkney, B., Quinn, F. Shaw, P. Stradling, D.J. Taylor-Gooby, T. Unsworth, C. Walker, P.G. Ward, Mrs. V. Williams.

**1. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair welcomed Paul Tanney, Chief Executive of East Durham Homes to the meeting.

P. Tanney explained that he commenced employment as Chief Executive of East Durham Homes, the previous week. The inspection report on East Durham Homes had been announced and they had been awarded a one star with uncertain prospects for improvement. This was very disappointing for tenants of East Durham Homes as extra investment from Government would not be forthcoming, although the £8.2m Capital Programme would continue.

P. Tanney explained that there were a number of issues that needed to be addressed to take East Durham Homes forward. The key services to tenants needed to be improved. There had been significant improvements over the past few months but there were still major gaps in the service. He was meeting all staff and he needed to address all the issues outlined in the Inspectors report. The Company needed to be established on a proper financial basis in the short term and medium terms. A change in the culture of the organisation, value for money, performance management and getting it right first time for customers was paramount.

P. Tanney explained that six project teams had been established covering Repairs and Maintenance, Asset and Property Management, Value for Money and Finance, Tenant Involvement, Decent Homes and Stock Condition.

The District Council was a shareholder of the Company and there needed to be close partnership working over the next 12 months. There was a lot of hard work to be carried out but from what he had seen in his first week, it was possible to achieve the two star rating. He had spoken to DCLG and they wanted to support East Durham Homes. A new Operations Director had been in post for three months and he had reported that improvements could be seen.

## District Council of Easington - 5 July 2007

Councillor Napier explained that tenants were the most important and improvements were required for them. Performance management was also crucial and regular feedbacks between the Council and the Company were essential.

**RESOLVED** that the information given be noted.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 7 June 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
3. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGULATORY APPEALS PANEL** held on 13 June 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the decision taken be noted.

### 4. **DISTRICT OF EASINGTON SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2006/7**

Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny Support Manager which sought approval of the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/7, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Scrutiny Support Manager explained that under Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, Scrutiny Committees had to report annually to Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes.

The report had been produced jointly on behalf of the three Scrutiny Committees and aimed to demonstrate the principle that the Scrutiny Committees worked together in assuring that they complemented the strategic work of the Executive and that the corporate priorities and performance targets agreed by the Council were met.

The report detailed the principles behind effective scrutiny within the Council, highlighting the co-ordinating role of the Scrutiny Management Board, reviewed the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees, set out proposed areas of work which formed the Scrutiny Committees future work programmes for 2007/8 as far as they were determined to date and proposed further ways through which the scrutiny process would be developed.

The Annual Report highlighted the relevant service unit position statement that would be considered by the newly established Community Services, Regeneration Services and Resources Scrutiny Committees during 2007/8. Executive portfolio holders would also be required to report to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee to report on the formal partnerships and partnership working that was undertaken within the portfolio.

The Annual Report also detailed the challenges and areas of future development that would be faced by the Scrutiny Committees arising from both the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" and the Police and Justice Act 2006, particularly where they related to proposals to establish "Community Calls for Action".

**RESOLVED** that the District of Easington's Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/7 be endorsed.

## **District Council of Easington - 5 July 2007**

### **5. CORPORATE PLAN 2007 - 2010**

Consideration was given to the report of the Principal Corporate Development Officer on the revised three year Corporate Plan for 2007/1010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

M. Readman, Principal Corporate Development Officer, advised that the report gave details of the revised three year Corporate Plan and sought approval for its adoption and publication.

A copy of the draft document had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the general content of the Corporate Plan be agreed and approval be granted to its adoption;
- (ii) authority be granted to complete and publish the plan.

### **6. TO SEAL DOCUMENTS**

**RESOLVED** that the action taken in affixing the Common Seal to the following documents, be endorsed:-

- 19569 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Anthony Armstrong (2) relating to 25 Dixon Rise, Horden
- 19570 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Albert Campbell (2) relating to 19 Webb Square Horden
- 19571 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Stephen Kevin Welsh and Peter Raymond relating to 20 Burns Street Wheatley Hill
- 19572 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Stephen Lyndon Pickering (2) relating to 52 Lakemore, Peterlee
- 19573 Easington District Council Wheatley Hill (Centenary Heritage Festival) Temporary Road Closure Order 2007 under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the Prevention of Obstruction of those Streets set out in the Order
- 19574 Easington District Council Seaham (Carnival) Temporary Road Closure Order 2007 under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the Prevention of Obstruction of those Streets set out in the Order
- 19575 The District Council of Easington Shotton (Carnival) Temporary Road Closure Order 2007 under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the Prevention of Obstruction of those Streets set out in the Order
- 19576 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Katy Pearn (2) relating to 13 Moore Terrace, Shotton

## District Council of Easington - 5 July 2007

- 19577 Lease made between EDC (1) and Lisa Joanne Pickering (2) relating to shop with yard and storage accommodation situate and numbered 52 York Road, Peterlee
- 19578 Lease made between EDC (1) and Wendy Teresa Doyle and David John Murray (2) relating to residential flat situate and known as 4 Tweed Close, Peterlee
- 19579 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Derek Neal Golightly, Helen Golightly, William Wood Soppitt Cold and Doreen Cole (2) relating to 16 Seaton Grove Seaton Lane Seaham
- 19580 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Charlene Scothern (2) relating to 101 Charters Crescent South Hetton
- 19581 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Kevin Ibinson and Alyson Ibinson (2) relating to 23 Windsor Drive, South Hetton
- 19582 Transfer of part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and David Smith (2) relating to Land adjacent to 7 Newlands Road West, Seaham, Co Durham
- 19583 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Diane Adamson and Debbie Adamson (2) relating to 49 Beech Crescent, Seaham
- 19584 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Joanne Bains (2) relating to 22 Front Street, Hesleden
- 19585 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Andrew Paul Malcolm (2) relating to 5 Malt Crescent, Horden
- 19586 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Denise Simpson and Vincent Simpson (2) relating to 19 Queensbury Road, Seaham
- 19587 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Gladedale (Northern Division) Ltd (CRN SC024489) relating to land at Windermere Road South Hetton
- 19588 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Barratt Homes (2) relating to land at Pattison Gardens, Blackhall
- 19589 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Elizabeth Ann Sillett (2) relating to 25 Wycliffe Road, Seaham

**District Council of Easington - 5 July 2007**

19590 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Andrea Ellwood (2) relating to 61 Fairbairn Road, Peterlee

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIR .....

DATE .....

JC/CB/COM/DIST/070700  
11 July 2007