

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 JULY 2008

Present: Councillor R Taylor (Chair)

Councillors Mrs M Baird, E Bell,
S Bishop, Mrs G Bleasdale, A Burnip,
R Burnip, A Collinson, Mrs E M Connor,
R Crute, R Davison, Mrs S Forster,
Mrs J Freak, J Haggan, H High,
A J Holmes, D Maddison, Mrs J Maitland,
Mrs S Mason, D Myers, A Napier,
Mrs A Naylor, G Patterson, G Pinkney,
B Quinn, F Shaw, P Stradling,
D J Taylor-Gooby and T Unsworth

- 1 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 5 June 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
- 2 **DISTRICT OF EASINGTON SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8**

Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny Support Manager which sought approval of the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/8, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that under Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, Scrutiny Committees must report annually to Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes, and amended working methods if appropriate.

The report had been produced jointly on behalf of the Scrutiny Committees and aimed to demonstrate the principle that Scrutiny Committees worked together in ensuring 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, highlighted the co-ordinating role of the Scrutiny Management Board and how it had developed its formative role in respect of policy development and service review, reviewed the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees during 2007/8, set out proposed areas of work which formed the work programmes for 2008/9, and highlighted areas of further developments in scrutiny that the Committees would face during the coming year.

The proposed areas of work were drawn from the Council's Corporate Plan and Transitional Plan which detailed key Council priority areas of work over the coming year. Reviews would be aimed at identifying areas of best practice within the Council to take forward into the new Unitary Council after vesting day.

Councillor A Burnip, Chair of Scrutiny Management Board stated that the report had been prepared following extensive consideration by the Scrutiny Management Board and the three Scrutiny Committees. This year had been the first following the Council's revised scrutiny arrangements and he felt that the Council had been successful in its aim to align scrutiny to the Council's priorities and the Executive portfolios.

He continued that 2008/9 would be an important year for Easington in the transition to the new unitary Council and scrutiny had a vital role to play in ensuring that services continued to be delivered to the same high standards which this Council had sought to achieve.

As stated in the report the work programmes were focused on priority issues identified in the Council's Transitional Plan, together with external issues considered to be important to residents of the District, including health service provision in East Durham and also the recently announced post office network review.

He also reiterated the importance of raising awareness within the new unitary Council of areas of best practice which had been developed. A Countywide review of overview and scrutiny had commenced using the Centre for Public Scrutiny's "Good Scrutiny Checklist".

To conclude, he thanked all Members and Officers who had engaged in the scrutiny process during 2007/8, and looked forward to their continued support.

In discussing the report, reference was made to scrutiny reviews carried out by the Scrutiny Committees. The Scrutiny Members involved in the reviews, together with the Scrutiny Support Manager were thanked for the work undertaken.

RESOLVED that the District of Easington's Scrutiny Annual Report for 2007/8, be approved.

3 AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONDITIONS IN RESPECT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Health which sought approval to amend the Council's current conditions for hackney carriages in respect of door access for wheelchair accessible vehicles, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer (Licensing) reported that in February 2008 the Council had approved the specification for vehicles to be licenced as wheelchair accessible hackney carriages.

It had since been highlighted by vehicle operators and the Council's Vehicle Inspector that the wording in the specification regarding the securing of the access doors to these vehicles was not sufficiently clear. This could result in vehicles which would otherwise be compliant, not being able to be licenced as wheelchair accessible.

The current wording of the condition was specified in the report.

The wording had been interpreted literally and the strict application of the requirement to have a 'lock and key' system would prevent the majority of vehicles that were suitable for adaptation to accommodate passengers in their wheelchairs from being licensed within this District. This may reduce the number of wheelchair accessible hackney carriages.

It had also been identified by the Council's Vehicle Inspector that in respect of twin rear doors it was sufficient if the doors opened to 90 degrees only.

District Council of Easington – 3 July 2008

In order to rectify the situation it was proposed to amend the wording of the condition, details of which were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED that the proposed amendment to the conditions regarding rear access doors in wheelchair accessible hackney carriages, as outlined in the report, be approved.

4 **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive which advised Members of the proposed review of the County Council's electoral boundaries, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that earlier in 2008, the County Council had been notified of the Electoral Commission's decision in principle to direct an electoral review during 2008 and 2009, commencing after the May 2008 elections.

The report detailed the review process and timetable which would commence formally on 15 July 2008 and conclude in May 2009 with the formulation of final recommendations to the Commission.

The Boundary Committee had advised that the starting point for the review would be to determine the appropriate number of Members for the Council, taking account of political management structures, scrutiny and representative roles for all Members. The County Council would be invited to submit proposals on the size of the Council, supported with evidence and showing how these provided for appropriate community engagement and empowerment. It would also be required to demonstrate that the proposed divisional pattern reflected community identity. Either single or multi-member divisions, or a combination of the two were possible. Work had commenced with District Electoral Registration Officers to gather electorate data.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the report, be noted.

5 **PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER FOR THE PREVENTION OF OBSTRUCTION OF BEDE WAY, BURNHOPE WAY (PART), PASSFIELD WAY (PART) AND OAKERSIDE DRIVE (PART), PETERLEE ON SATURDAY 30 AUGUST 2008**

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Council had been asked by Peterlee Town Council to make an Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to close the roads listed on Saturday 30 August 2008 between the hours specified on the Agenda.

The Order had been suggested to safeguard the public as the parade travelled from Peterlee Leisure Centre to the show field in Helford Road.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Council hereby make an Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the purposes of preventing an obstruction at Bede Way, Burnhope Way (part), Passfield Way (part) and Oakerside Drive (part) on Saturday 30 August 2008 between 10.15 am and 11.15 am, as shown on the plan on display outside the Council Chamber;
- (b) authority be granted to undertake the necessary procedures to bring the Order into effect.

6 PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER FOR THE PREVENTION OF OBSTRUCTION OF NORTH TERRACE, SOUTH CRESCENT, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH TERRACE, NORTH RAILWAY STREET, SIDE STREET BETWEEN 17 AND 18 NORTH TERRACE AND GEORGE ELMY LIFEBOAT WAY ON SUNDAY 27 JULY 2008

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Council had been asked by Seaham Town Council to make an Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to close the roads specified on Sunday 27 July 2008 between 8.00am and 6.00pm.

The Order had been suggested to safeguard the public as the parade travelled from North Terrace to the Terrace Green.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Council hereby make an Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the purposes of preventing an obstruction at North Terrace, South Crescent, Church Street, South Terrace, North Railway Street, side street between 17 and 18 North Terrace and George Elmy Lifeboat Way on Sunday 27 July 2008 between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm, as shown on the plan on display outside the Council Chamber;
- (b) authority be granted to undertake the necessary procedures to bring the Order into effect.

**7 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257 - PUBLIC FOOTPATH STOPPING UP AND DIVERSION ORDER
THE DISTRICT OF EASINGTON (PEMBROKE PLACE, PETERLEE) (NO 1) PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP AND DIVERSION ORDER 2008**

The Head of Democratic Services reported that as a measure to help resolve serious anti-social behaviour issues, planning permission for the erection of fencing, installation of a new footpath and change of use of highway land to private garden at Pembroke Place, Peterlee had been approved by the District Council on 25 May 2006.

The Council was now requested to make an Order under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 because it was satisfied that it was necessary to stop up and divert the footpaths to which the Order related to enable development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted.

A copy of the Order and Order Map was attached to the Agenda which showed the footpath to be stopped up and diverted as part of the Order.

RESOLVED that the Council hereby make the District of Easington (Pembroke Place, Peterlee) (No 1) Public Path Stopping Up and Diversion Order 2008, and the Council's Governance and Risk Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary statutory order procedures.

**8 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257 - PUBLIC FOOTPATH STOPPING UP ORDER
THE DISTRICT OF EASINGTON (UNNAMED FOOTPATHS AT ST JOHNS SQUARE, SEAHAM) PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2008**

District Council of Easington – 3 July 2008

The Head of Democratic Services reported that as a measure to compliment the outline planning approval to provide a multi- use public service centre, office space, residential, retail and health care provision and public square, a new public footpath would improve access across the site and meet the aesthetic quality of a comprehensive redevelopment.

The Council was requested to make an Order under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 because it was satisfied that it was necessary to stop up the footpaths to which the Order related to enable the development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted.

RESOLVED that the Council hereby make the District of Easington (Unnamed Footpaths at St Johns Square, Seaham) Public Path Stopping Up Order 2008, and the Council's Governance and Risk Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary statutory order procedures.

9 TO SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 19804 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Natalie Dawn Wilson and Graham Michael Peak (2) relating to 21 Handel Terrace, Wheatley Hill |
| 19805 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Tracy Slee (2) relating to 34 Windsor Drive, South Hetton |
| 19806 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Melanie Kelsey (2) relating to 13 Dixon Rise, Horden, Peterlee |
| 19807 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Gwen Elizabeth Stephenson (2) relating to 55 Basingstoke Road, Peterlee |
| 19808 | The Easington District Council (St. Johns Square, Seaham) Compulsory Purchase Order 2008 |
| 19809 | Deed of Release and Covenant made between EDC (1) Columba John Harvey Smith (2) and Victoria Jane Smith (3) relating to land at Glenside, Thornley |
| 19810 | Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 88 Oak Road, Easington |
| 19811 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Edith Smurthwaite and Wayne Smurthwaite (2) relating to 29 Hall Crescent Horden |
| 19812 | Release of Part of the Land from a Registered Charge relating to Plot 50 High Croft, Thornlaw North Estate, Thornley |
| 19813 | Release of Part of the Land from a Registered Charge relating to Plot 57 High Croft, Thornlaw North Estate, Thornley |
| 19814 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and |

District Council of Easington – 3 July 2008

Christine Askins (2) relating to 39 Jubilee Square, South Hetton

19815 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Mark James McLaren and Angela McLaren (2) relating to 23 Burnhall Drive, Seaham

19816 Conditions and Regulations relating to Cross Roads Allotment Site, Horden

19817 Counterpart Surrender made between Ashtenne Industrial Fund Nominee No. 1 Limited and Ashtenne Industrial Fund Nominee No. 2 Limited (1) and EDC (2) relating to Site No. 4, Cold Hesledon Industrial Estate, Cold Hesledon, Seaham and other land at Cold Hesledon Industrial Estate, Cold Hesledon

10 **ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair agreed that consideration be given to one item of business not shown on the Agenda as a matter of urgency, following consultation with the Proper Officer.

11 **PROPOSED ORDER FOR THE PREVENTION OF OBSTRUCTION FROM SHOTTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ONTO BRIDGE ROAD, FRIAR STREET, POTTO STREET AND STATION ROAD LEADING TO SHOTTON COMMUNITY PARK ON SATURDAY 5 JULY 2008 (AOB)**

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Council had been asked by Shotton Community Festival to make an Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to close the roads specified on Saturday 5 July 2008 between 10.15am and 11.30am.

The Order had been suggested to safeguard the public as the parade travelled from Shotton Community Centre to Shotton Community Park.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Council hereby make an Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the purposes of preventing an obstruction at Bridge Road, Friar Street, Potto Street and Station Road on Saturday 5 July 2008 between 10.15 am and 11.30 am, as shown on the plan on display outside the Council Chamber;
- (b) authority be granted to undertake the necessary procedures to bring the Order into effect.