

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE**

HELD ON TUESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 2007

Present: Councillor A. Napier (Chair)
Councillors Mrs. J. Freak, Mrs. A. Naylor,
F. Shaw, R.J. Todd and P.G. Ward

Apologies: Councillors R. Crute, G. Patterson, D. Myers
and Mrs. E. Huntington

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 25th May, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
2. **GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH EDUCATION AND TRAINING (GREAT) INSTITUTE PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which gave details of the potential of a research and development institute for Geothermal Research to be located within the District, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that in September 2005 the Council and the University of Newcastle commissioned consultants to draw up a concept development paper and a funding prospectus for the GREAT Institute Project. The concept paper considered the UK energy policy context for the development of micro-generations, including geothermal energy, developed the basic components of the project and identified the potential economic and environmental benefits of clustering geothermal research and related business activity in Easington. This had been undertaken to address the emerging and increasingly important policy issues related to energy that had been brought forward in recent years.

The 2003 Energy White Paper set out the Government's commitment to a new, low carbon economy and encouraged access to a wide range of energy sources and technologies that would contribute to the target of a 60% reduction in CO² emissions by 2050. The Government had consulted widely on its new micro-generation strategy and launched this in 2006.

The partners wished to present Easington as the UK's leading low carbon and sustainable low cost energy location, by establishing the area as a unique and integrated, large scale demonstration platform for geothermal micro-generation and low carbon buildings over the next decade and extend the benefits of this throughout the North East, the UK and beyond.

The District Council acted as client and commissioned a study to be undertaken by consultants Shared Intelligence to produce a concept paper to gain support for the idea in December 2005. This resulted in support from One North East, Government Office North East, the Sub-Regional Economic Partnership, the New and Renewable Energy Centre as well as written support from the Rt. Hon Tony Blair MP, which had helped ensure that a commitment to developing the proposals were embedded within the Regional and Sub-Regional Economic Strategies. The concept was now included

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within the Tyne & Wear City Region's, Science City initiative as a key action in the energy and environment strand.

The study had now been completed and the partners were in a position to take the proposals forward through a more detailed feasibility study. Details of the main outcomes of the study were outlined in the report together with the vision for the development and the next steps recommended by the prospectus.

At this stage a contribution of approximately 15% of the value of the commission towards the first phase requirements would be needed. £35,000 had been identified and allocated within the Use of Reserves Budget. The cost of the feasibility work would be subject to a tendering exercise and was anticipated to be in the region of £230,000 excl. VAT.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the recommendations made in the phase 1 prospectus and the progress of the development concept for the GREAT Institute be noted;
- (ii) approval be granted to progress the concept to implementation stage through the commissioning of a detailed feasibility study;
- (iii) the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, to demonstrate commitment to exploring the concept be approved and delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration;
- (iii) approval be granted to commit up to £35,000 of the total cost of the agreed commission and act as client once approved to enable progress to the next phase of feasibility. The costs to be committed from the Use of Reserves Budget;

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 6, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

4. CSC ROLL-OUT - PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Customer Services which sought approval to waive Standing Order 4(A)(ii) to engage the services of Contact Centre Professional Limited to project manage the migration of services into the Customer Services Centre, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Chair commended everyone involved with the work being undertaken at the Contact Centre.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to waive Standing Order 4(A)(ii) to extend the contract with Contact Centre Professional Limited, as outlined in Section 5.1 of the report, and the Council's Contract Management principals be adhered to during the life of the contract.

5. FUTURE OF THE KERB-IT SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Liveability, which advised of the pending expiry of the kerb-it contract with Durham County Council, and detailed options for the future of the service, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) approval be granted to proceed with tendering for a new kerbside collection contract jointly with the other Durham Districts in accordance with the programme set out in Option 1, Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) approval be granted to continue to explore options for the extension of the existing contract by seeking legal advice to extend the existing contract if this became possible;
- (iii) the implications of providing the service in-house be investigated and the Director of Community Services together with the Executive Member for Liveability be granted approval to authorise the submission of an in-house bid in the tendering process, if appropriate, otherwise option 2 would not be pursued;
- (iv) at the end of the tendering process a further report detailing the full costs and options be produced.