

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

**HELD ON FRIDAY, 25 MAY, 2007**

**Present:** Councillor A Napier (Chair)  
  
Councillors R Crute, Mrs J Freak, D Myers,  
G Patterson, F Shaw, R J Todd and P G  
Ward

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs E Huntington and Mrs A  
Naylor

**Prior to the commencement of business the Chair congratulated Members on their successful nominations to the Executive**

- 1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 10 April, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed subject to minute numbered 3(ii) being amended to read as follows:-

**“3 The Scrutiny Review of East Durham Local Strategic Partnership**

- (ii) The report be referred to the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership Executive for consideration and response.”

- 2 **LOANS DIARY - TRANSACTIONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH, 2007**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources on loans transactions for the quarter ended 31 March, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report gave details of short term lending/borrowing and treasury accounts. There had been no long term borrowing in this quarter.

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

- 3 **ANNUAL EFFICIENCY PLAN - FORWARD LOOK 2007/2008**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources which gave details of the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2007/2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that the Forward Statement for 2007/2008 was the last in the current round of three years. Appendix 1 to the report was a table of the efficiencies and reflected the continuation of the strategy and efficiencies identified within the 2007/8 budget round.

The Council's initial target amounted to just under £1.77m in total for the three year period. The original target was based on 2004/5 general fund and capital budgets, however the Council had been advised that efficiencies in respect of the housing revenue account could be counted.

## **Executive – 25 May, 2007**

The estimated efficiencies to date including the 2007/8 forecast were detailed in the report and had been calculated from efficiency initiatives contained in Executive/Scrutiny reports, Service Plans for 2006/7 to 2008/9, the Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/8 to 2009/10 and efficiencies identified in the 2007/8 budgets.

The position given was provisional and would be confirmed once year end performance information was available and finalisation of the final accounts for 2006/7.

The Statement had to be submitted to the Department of Communities by 12 April 2007 and therefore the Leader, Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer had agreed the content.

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2007/2008 be endorsed and everyone who had contributed towards achieving the efficiencies identified in the report be thanked for their efforts.

### **4 LEISURE CENTRES CATERING SERVICES – CONCESSION AGREEMENT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Culture which advised of an Agreement made by Leisure Connection to operate the bars and catering facilities at Peterlee and Seaham Leisure Centres under a concession arrangement. A copy of the report had been circulated to each Member.

The Executive Member reported that Leisure Connection Limited had conducted a company wide review of its catering services provided within its business and had decided to develop a strategic partnership with a specialist catering company to deliver the bars/catering functions within its contracts. This resulted in a new division of the business called Leisureextra which intended to actively promote the bars and catering facilities at both centres.

Under the terms of the Council's Management Agreement the company was allowed to enter into sub-contracting arrangements for the provision of services with the consent of the Council.

Trade Unions and staff had been consulted on these proposed changes and the existing employees working in bars and catering would be TUPE transferred to Leisureextra.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the report be noted and the actions of Management Team in agreeing to the request to operate the bars and catering services provided at Peterlee and Seaham Leisure Centres under a catering concession arrangement, be endorsed.

### **5 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 5, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**6 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources which gave details of the Apprenticeship Programme, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were provided with an update on the progress of the Authority's current apprentices and were asked to consider the potential for an intake this year.

**RESOLVED** that for 2007/8:-

- (a) two horticultural apprentices be recruited;
- (b) two Business Administration apprentices be recruited;
- (c) the recruitment process commence immediately;
- (d) recruitment be limited to residents of the District who are in the age range 16 to 24 in order to secure Learning and Skills Council funding and programme support.