

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

HELD ON TUESDAY 3 JULY 2007

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

Apology: Councillor R.J. Todd

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 12th June, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS COUNCILLOR A. NAPIER DECLARED A PERSONAL BUT NOT PREDJUDICIAL INTEREST.

2. **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF - NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources which gave details of new applications for discretionary rate relief which were considered by the Rate Relief Panel held on 12th June, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Details of the applications were outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED that the applications outlined in the report, be approved.

3. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which gave details of recent Development Control performance in the Planning Service and progress in delivering performance improvement strategies, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the designation of the Planning Service as a Best Value planning authority be noted;
- (ii) the significant improvement in the performance of the Development Control service over the last twelve months be noted;
- (iii) a revised improvement plan be prepared for consideration by the Executive in the Autumn;
- (iv) the Executive Member for Regeneration monitor performance improvement and report on the progress of the Planning Performance Improvement Team.

4. 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 4 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

5. PROPOSED RESTRUCTURE ASSET AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources, which sought approval to a proposed re-organisation of the staffing structure, and operational focus of the Asset and Property Management Service, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the proposed restructure of the Asset and Property Management Service as outlined in the report, be approved;
- (ii) the recruitment process commence immediately to allow the new posts to be filled as soon as possible.

6. STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE REGENERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS UNIT

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which sought approval on the future staffing arrangements for the Regeneration and Partnerships Unit and proposed arrangements to manage the changes in the work of the regeneration service, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the proposed changes to the staffing structure for the Regeneration and Partnerships Unit, as outlined in the report, be approved.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS COUNCILLOR R CRUTE DECLARED A PERSONAL AND PREDJUDICIAL INTEREST AND LEFT THE MEETING.

7. PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL SERVICE UNIT STAFFING REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which sought approval to staffing changes in the Development Control and Administrative Support sections of the Planning and Building Control Service Unit, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the proposed staffing changes, outlined in paragraph 5.1 of the report, be approved;
- (ii) the additional costs of £129,613 per annum be met from Planning Delivery Grant in accordance with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

COUNCILLOR R CRUTE RE-JOINED THE MEETING

8. **LAND AT WINDERMERE ROAD, SOUTH HETTON**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which sought authority to dispose of land at Windermere Road, South Hetton for residential development, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for the disposal of the land and property at Windermere Road, South Hetton on the basis of the terms detailed in the report.

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3rd July, 2007