

# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Thursday,  
30 August 2007

Time: 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong (Chairman) and  
Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson,  
Mrs. L. Hovvels, J.M. Khan, D.A. Newell and W. Waters

**In Attendance:** Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T. Brimm, V. Chapman, A. Gray,  
G.C. Gray, B. Haigh, T. Hogan, Mrs. S. J. Iveson, Ms. I. Jackson,  
B. Lamb, Mrs. E. Maddison, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith and T. Ward

**CAB.48/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Members had no interests to declare.

**CAB.49/07 MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**CAB.50/07 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**  
The Lead Member for Environment presented a report seeking approval to adopt the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which was appended to the report. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Climate Change Strategy aimed to provide the Council with the framework to respond to the immediate threat of climate change within a timescale of 5 years from 2007 to 2012. The Strategy reflected the Council's desire to make climate change a central theme in all future policies, strategies and activities. The implementation of the Action Plan would help the Council to ensure that buildings and infrastructure were sustainable in a changing climate and that services could continue to be provided at reasonable costs and were able to adapt to change.

*RESOLVED : That the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan be adopted.*

**CAB.51/07 NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY - THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT REVISION SUBMITTED BY THE NORTH EAST ASSEMBLY**  
The Lead Member for Planning and Development presented a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy had been prepared by the Government Office for the North East following the publication of the Panel Report of the Examination in Public, which took place in March and April 2006. The document, which set out a long term strategy for spatial development in the North East to 2021, would when approved form part of the statutory development plan for the Borough.

The report detailed the Council's response to the proposed changes in relation to the Tees Valley City Region, housing provision and employment issues.

It was pointed out that, as the period of consultation had ended on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007, the Council's response had been agreed with the Leader and the Lead Member for Planning and Development and had been submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

*RESOLVED : That the recommendations regarding proposed changes PC 48 D, PC 93 D/E, PC 96 E, PC115 E and PC 135 C be endorsed.*

**CAB.52/07 PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: WHITE PAPER**

The Lead Member for Planning and Development presented a report setting out the Council's response to the Planning White Paper which had been published in May 2007. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the White Paper attempted to build upon the existing reforms that had been introduced by the Government since 1997 and looked at addressing the long term challenges posed by climate change, global economic development, infrastructure requirements, affordable and decent homes.

The package of reforms proposed in the White Paper included the streamlining of the planning system enabling local authorities to shape their local communities and ensuring that economic development helped to tackle climate change.

Members noted that the Council's response which related to infrastructure projects, place shaping, improving performance, making the planning system more effective and efficient, permitted development rights, appeals and planning fees, had been forwarded to the Government during the summer recess.

*RESOLVED : That the response to the Planning White Paper be endorsed.*

**CAB.53/07 CORPORATE DATA QUALITY POLICIES**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report set out arrangements which the Council had put in place to ensure that the data it generated and used was of a Fit for Purpose quality and sought the approval of a suite of data quality policies.

*RESOLVED :*                    *That the following policies be approved :-*

- *Corporate Data Quality Policy*
- *Financial Data Quality Policy*
- *Human Resources Data Quality Policy*
- *Performance Indicator Data Quality Policy*
- *Spatial Data Quality Policy*

**CAB.54/07            AREA FORUMS**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Area 3 Forum            -            4<sup>th</sup> July 2007
- Area 4 Forum            -            10<sup>th</sup> July 2007
- Area 5 Forum            -            17<sup>th</sup> July 2007

(For copies see file of Minutes)

*RESOLVED :*            *That the reports be received.*

**CAB.55/07            LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW - INSTITUTION OF PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION TAKEN DURING RECESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CE61, PART 3 - RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS - C - OFFICER DELEGATIONS CHIEF EXECUTIVE DELEGATION**

Members were requested to note the decision taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Solicitor to the Council on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007 and arising from the deliberations of the Durham Districts Forum, for the Council to be party to proceedings with Durham City Council against the Secretary of State for a Judicial Review of decisions taken regarding the re-organisation of local government in County Durham (the announcement made by the DCLG on 25<sup>TH</sup> July 2007 refers).

The basis of the decision took into account legal advice from local government Counsel received by Durham City Council, which set out in detail, the grounds for legal challenge of the series of decisions taken by the Secretary of State culminating in the announcement on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007; the Council agrees to support the proceedings, co-equally, with other District Councils within County Durham, who had expressed similar intent.

*RESOLVED:*                    *That the decision taken be affirmed.*

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

*RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Act.*

### **CAB.56/07 ASSET MANAGEMENT SALE OF LAND, MORRISON CLOSE, NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the sale of a parcel of Council-owned open space verge at Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe. (For copy see file of Minutes).

*RESOLVED : That the recommendation detailed in the report be adopted.*

**Published on 31st August 2007.**

**These Minutes contain no key decisions and will be implemented immediately.**

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#### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Liz North On 10388 816166 ext 4237 email: [enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk)