

# CABINET

Thursday,  
18 December 2008  
10.00 a.m.

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

# AGENDA and REPORTS



**This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format upon request**

**العربية (Arabic)**

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

**বাংলা (Bengali)**

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

**(中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese)**

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

**हिन्दी (Hindi)**

यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे

**polski (Polish)**

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

**ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)**

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

**Español (Spanish)**

Póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea recibir información en otro idioma o formato.

**اردو (Urdu)**

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھیے۔

## AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

**3. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008. (Pages 1 - 2)

### STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO

**4. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2008/09 - UPDATED CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING POSITION TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2008**

Report of Director of Resources. (Pages 3 - 10)

### MINUTES

**5. HEALTHY BOROUGH WITH STRONG COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008. (Pages 11 - 14)

**6. AREA 5 FORUM**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008. (Pages 15 - 18)

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Lead Members are requested to inform the Chief Executive or the Cabinet Secretary of any items they might wish to raise under this heading by no later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting. This will enable the Officers in consultation with the Chairman to determine whether consideration of the matter by the Cabinet is appropriate.

B. Allen  
Chief Executive

Council Offices  
SPENNYMOOR  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, Mrs. L. Hovvells, J.M. Khan, D.A. Newell and W. Waters

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact Gillian Garrigan, on Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240 [ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk)

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# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Thursday,  
4 December 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong (Chairman) and

Councillors Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson and J.M. Khan

**In**

**Attendance:** Councillors A. Smith

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, Mrs. L. Hovvels, D.A. Newell and W. Waters

**CAB. 69/08    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members had no interests to declare.

**CAB. 70/08    MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**CAB. 71/08    INTERIM REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2008 - 09**

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

It was explained that in the light of the recent turbulence in the financial and banking sector it had been considered appropriate to review the Council's financial position and treasury management practices to identify any impact on the Council and its approach to treasury activities to minimise its risk exposure.

The report gave details of the economic conditions and the 'credit crunch' and the Council's investment strategy and practices. It also reviewed the Council's investment and borrowing activities, summarised the net treasury position and gave details of the monitoring of the Council's prudential indicators.

- RESOLVED :**
1. *That the treasury management activities undertaken for the period including compliance with the approved treasury management strategy 2008-09 be noted.*
  2. *That the performance of the Council's investments for the reported period be noted.*
  3. *That the prudent approach taken by the Council in managing its investment portfolio and choosing to investment in UK/Irish financial institutions only be endorsed.*

4. *That the take up of additional borrowing of £4.999m during the period to take the Council's borrowing to the level of its 'attributable housing debt' be noted.*

**CAB. 72/08 STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 (for copy see file of Minutes).

*RESOLVED : That the Minutes be received.*

**CAB. 73/08 AREA FORUMS**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following:

Area 2 Forum 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
Area 1 Forum 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
Area 3 Forum 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
Area 4 Forum 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008

*RESOLVED : That the Minutes be received.*

**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. 74/08 ASSET MANAGEMENT - LEASES OF LAND FOR PLAY AREA AT REDESDALE COURT, TRIMDON GRANGE**

Consideration was given to a report regarding a request for the lease of land for the development of a childrens play area at Redesdale Court, Trimdon Grange (For copy see file of Minutes).

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

**Published on 4<sup>th</sup>December, 2008.**

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

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**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

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# Item 4

## REPORT TO CABINET

18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008

## REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

### BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2008/2009

#### UPDATED CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING POSITION TO 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008

##### 1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The 2008/09 capital programme was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> June. The programme is based around the key projects outlined previously in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and Transitional Plan. New investment for projects was set at £19.5m with additional commitments brought forward from previous years' programmes of £6.8m giving a total programme for 2008/09 of £26.3m.
- 1.2 A progress report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 was reported to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and this identified that only 27% of the programme had been spent at the mid point of the year. The report also identified a potential shortfall in resources to finance the agreed capital programme if all of the agreed investments were still required. Therefore, it was agreed that all capital schemes should be reviewed to identify a forecast outturn position for each scheme and the capital commitments to be inherited by the new authority on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
- 1.2 This report provides a review of the 2008/09 Capital Programme, showing:
- the actual position as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008
  - committed expenditure
  - probable outturn spend as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009
  - commitments carried forward into 2009/10
  - estimated budget savings and pressures
- 1.2 It also summarises the available capital resources for financing the programme and, based on the estimated outturn, sets out the proposed financing of the programme in 2008/09.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) Cabinet notes the updated eight month spend position to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and amendments to the Capital Programme, and of the probable outturn position and commitments carried forward into 2009/10.
- (ii) Further reports be submitted to Cabinet and all Strategic Working Groups detailing the position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December in line with the Budgetary Control Monitoring Arrangements.

## 3.0 CAPITAL SPEND AND RESOURCES MONITORING 2008/09

### Revised Capital Programme Budget

3.1 Since the original report was prepared additional commitments have been identified which are funded from external sources. This means that the revised gross budget has increased by £78,000 from £26,344,000 to £26,422,000. In addition there has been a budget transfer of £70,000 from Asset Management to fund increased costs for the Spennymoor Leisure Centre Pool Roof and Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre schemes. The revised gross budget is detailed below:

Table 1: Approved Programme 2008/2009

Portfolio / Capital Programme	Approved Net Budget (inc c/fwd) £'000	Budget Revisions £'000	Revised Gross Budget £'000
<b>Strategic Leadership:</b>			
- ICT	497	-	497
- Green Lane/Asset Management	124	(70)	54
- Chilton Depot	19	-	19
<b>Healthy Borough:</b>			
- Community Health	380	-	380
- Leisure and Culture	2,621	70	2,691
<b>Prosperous Borough:</b>			
- Social Regeneration	604	61	665
- Learning & Employment	180	-	180
- Major Regeneration	5,812	-	5,812
<b>Attractive Borough:</b>			
- Environment	10	-	10
- Planning & Development	65	17	82
<b>Strong Communities:</b>			
- Housing (HRA)	8,193	-	8,193
- Housing (General Fund)	7,430	-	7,430
- Safer Communities	149	-	149
Contingency	<b>260</b>	-	<b>260</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,344</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>26,422</b>



## Review of 2008/09 Capital Programme

3.4 This section of the report summarises the results of the exercise that has been undertaken. The aim of the exercise was to identify spend committed for 2008/9, forecast a realistic outturn position, identify spend that is committed for 2009/10 and identify budget savings. The findings are summarised in Table 2 and are followed by comments on working groups :

**Table 2: Actual spend to November 2008**

<b>Portfolio / Capital Programme</b>	<b>Revised Gross Budget</b>	<b>Actual Gross Spend</b>	<b>Contractually Committed</b>	<b>Actual + Contractually Committed</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>Projected Spend C/Fwd to 2009/10</b>	<b>Budget Pressure/ (Savings)</b>
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D(=B+C)</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G(=E+F-A)</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Strategic Leadership:</b>							
- ICT	497	327	96	423	497	-	-
- Asset Man	54	21	-	21	21	-	(33)
-Chilton Depot	19	25	-	25	31	-	12
<b>Healthy Borough:</b>							
-Community Health	380	63	312	375	70	310	-
-Leisure and Culture	2,691	481	139	620	1,582	270	(839)
<b>Prosperous Borough:</b>							
-Social Regeneration	665	235	418	653	953	-	288
- Learning & Employment	180	47	-	47	109	-	(71)
-Major Regeneration	5,812	911	90	1,001	6,177	-	365
<b>Attractive Borough:</b>							
-Environment	10	7	6	13	13	-	3
-Planning & Development	82	48	6	54	82	-	-
<b>Strong Communities:</b>							
-Housing (HRA)	8,193	3,843	4,318	8,161	8,193	-	-
-Housing (General Fund)	7,430	4,030	318	4,348	5,219	2,211	-
-Safer Communities	149	163	-	163	163	-	14
<b>Contingency</b>	260	-	-	-	260	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,422</b>	<b>10,201</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>15,904</b>	<b>23,370</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>(261)</b>

### 3.3 Healthy Borough

The Community Health rephased spend relates to the PCP development which is not due to start on site until 13<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Of the rephased spend of £270,000 for Leisure & Culture some £200,000 concerns the Arts Centre development, which is due to start in January and take 12 weeks to complete, and £70,000 relates to the lottery funded Play Scheme at Dean Bank, which is subject to a review of play services by Ferryhill Town Council.

The saving against Leisure and Culture primarily relates to the Cobblers Hall development, which will now proceed in a different format with Football Foundation funding. This saving is offset by anticipated increased costs for other schemes. The saving also includes £150,000 made against the Arts Centre development, which is matched by a similar pressure on the Spennymoor Town Centre scheme in Social Regeneration and a budget realignment is required for these projects.

### 3.4 Prosperous Borough

Total expenditure includes an anticipated payment of £2.5 million to Bishop Auckland Technical College to fund the development of the Training Centre that was transferred on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008.

### 3.5 Strong Communities

The carried forward spend of £2,211,000 relates to the Masterplan initiative. It is anticipated that the scheme will not now be completed in 2008/9 and funds will need to be carried forward to finance Haig Street Group Repairs (£400,000), Dean Bank demolition (£994,000), and Equity Release Scheme applications (£817,000).

## Revised Capital Programme and Actual Spend to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008

3.6 A gross total of **£10.201** million, has been spent in the first eight months to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008 against the capital programme budget of **£26.422** million and this represents 39% of the total budget. In addition some **£5.703** million of spend is committed, giving a total of **£15.904** million of actual and committed spend, or some 60% of the total budget.

Due to the nature of capital projects it is difficult to predict exactly when financial payments will be made, unlike revenue budgets which can be profiled accurately. Some capital projects have significant lead-in times, major programmes of works may require a dedicated staffing resource and in other cases there may be a need to secure funding approval from other agencies before expenditure is incurred. All of these issues can lead to delays in capital projects. However an assessment of expected spending has been made and it is anticipated that at outturn some **£22.870** million will have been spent.

It is anticipated that some **£2.791** million will need to be carried forward into 2009/10 to enable the agreed capital programme to be completed. Therefore the total revised estimated costs of the programme are **£26.161** million, compared to the budget of **£26.422** million, giving a saving of **£0.261** million.

The capital position will be closely monitored through to the end of the financial year to ensure that the capital programme is delivered as planned.

## Capital Resources

- 3.7 Based on current projections the total level of capital resources likely to be available to finance this year's Capital Programme is summarised in the table below. Capital resources are split between those brought forward from 2007/08 and those expected to be received in 2008/09:

**Table 3: Capital Resources Available for 2008/09**

<b>Available Capital Resource</b>	<b>Brought Forward Resources £'000</b>	<b>Received/ Anticipated In Year £'000</b>	<b>Total Anticipated Resources £'000</b>
<b>Capital Receipts:</b>			
- Housing Right To Buys	896	370	1,266
- Housing Land Sales	-	30	30
- General Fund Receipts	761	3,600	4,361
- MRI – see para 3.10 below	9,320	-	9,320
<b>Total Capital Receipts</b>	<b>10,977</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>14,977</b>
<b>Capital Grants</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>507</b>
<b>Government Support</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,654</b>	<b>7,654</b>
<b>Capital Contributions</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>2,105</b>
<b>LEGI</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>LABGI</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>Total Available Resources</b>	<b>11,650</b>	<b>14,623</b>	<b>26,273</b>

- 3.8 The amount of MRI shown above includes a sum of £5m which was used to over-finance the 2007/08 Capital Programme. This was a technical accounting adjustment in order to reduce the Councils minimum revenue provision in that year.
- 3.9 In addition to the above figures there is a sum of £214,000 available to fund Section 106 schemes. As yet no specific schemes have yet been identified in the capital programme.

## Financing the Capital Programme

- 3.10 It can be seen from the above Table that against the projected capital programme costs of **£25.161** million, including carry forwards, there are anticipated resources of **£26.273** million, leaving a surplus of resources of **£112,000**. The previous report detailed a potential resource shortfall of **£242,000**, and net savings of **£354,000** have therefore been identified through the exercise arising from pressures and savings against several budget heads.
- 3.11 It should be noted that most of the above resources have actually been realised, which means that the funding to support the capital programme is mainly secure.

3.12 Assuming the revised spending targets are achieved, there will be unused capital resources to carry forward into 2009/10.

### 3.13 Summary

The programme for 2008/09 was designed to meet the Council's key objectives as set out in the Medium Term Financial and Transitional Plans. However, there was recognition that it represented an ambitious target in the Council's final year. This report suggests that it is largely on track to meet expectations and objectives and by the end of the financial year around 86% is expected to be spent or committed.

This still represents a challenging target given the spend position at the end of November was only 39% and, therefore, efforts need to be focussed on delivering the forecasts contained in this document and to further review areas where budget has been allocated but not forecast, at this stage, to be committed.

## 4.0 CORPORATE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 This report does not contain proposals that would require any changes to the Council's agreed policy framework and corporate objectives.

## 5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no further resource implications arising from this report.

## 6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Comprehensive consultation has previously been held during the construction of the 2008/09 Budget Framework. This report does not contain any proposals or recommendations requiring further consultation.

## 7.0 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### 7.1 *Links to Corporate Objectives/Values*

The Council's Corporate Objectives and Values have guided the preparation of the 2008/09 Budget Framework throughout. Resource availability has been fully re-assessed and directed to assist in achieving the Council's key priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan.

### 7.2 *Risk Management*

The major risks of the overall capital programme can be identified and mitigated within the process of effective budgetary monitoring and control.

The efficient delivery of the capital programme can be facilitated by the reporting of financial issues and progress reports which can identify overspends or delays within a project.

The council pursues value for money through quarterly financial/progress reports and these can highlight delays which may result in less effective purchasing in the last quarter of the financial year.

**7.3 Health and Safety**

No additional implications have been identified.

**7.4 Equality and Diversity**

No material considerations have been identified.

**7.5 Legal and Constitutional**

The Budget Framework has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Constitution and full account has been taken of new statutory requirements. No other legal or constitutional implications have been identified.

**8.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1.1 Consultation and engagement with Overview and Scrutiny Committees has previously been held in development and review of the 2008/09 Budget Framework.

**Contact Officer:** Alan Smith (Director of Resources)  
**Telephone No.:** 01388-816166 ext. 7776  
**E-Mail Address:** [asmith@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:asmith@sedgefield.gov.uk)

**Ward(s):** Not Ward Specific

**Background Papers:**

1. Report to Council 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – Budget Framework 2008/2009.
2. Report to Cabinet 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 – Capital Programme 2008/09
3. Report to Cabinet 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 – 2007/08 Capital Final Outturn Position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008
4. Report to Cabinet 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008 – Local Improvement Programme
5. Report to Cabinet 20<sup>th</sup> November – Capital Programme Expenditure and Financing Position to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**EXAMINATION BY STATUTORY OFFICERS**

	YES	NOT APPLICABLE
1. The report has been examined by the Council's Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S151 Officer or his representative.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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# Item 5

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL HEALTHY BOROUGH WITH STRONG COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Council Chamber,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Tuesday,  
25 November 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor J.E. Higgin (Chairman) and

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. P. Crathorne, Mrs. S. Haigh,  
A. Warburton, T. Ward, Mrs E. M. Wood, Mrs. M. Thomson

**In Attendance** Councillors V. Chapman, G.C. Gray, B. Haigh, J.G. Huntington, and  
Mrs. E. Maddison

**Observer with Chairman's Consent** Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, J.M. Khan,  
and W. Waters

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, J. Burton, Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson,  
Ms. I. Jackson and K. Thompson

**H&S.19/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
No declarations of interest were received.

**H&S.20/08 MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2008 were confirmed as  
a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**H&S.21/08 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**  
Consideration was given to a report measuring performance against the  
Corporate Plan's Healthy Borough and Strong Communities Delivery Plans  
covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 (for copy  
see file of Minutes).

The report provided data on 35 Performance Indicators of which 4 were  
key to the Council's aims and objectives.

With regard to the 18 Healthy Borough Performance Indicators 7 had  
demonstrated improved performance against 2007/2008 actual outturns. 3  
had performed at the same level and 3 had performed at worse level. 15  
Indicators had progressed well against 2008/2009 targets and one was off  
target.

With regard to the 17 Strong Communities Performance Indicators, 8 had  
demonstrated improved performance against 2007/2008 actual outturns, 3  
were performing at the same level and 4 were performing at a worse level.  
10 Indicators were performing above 2008/2009 targets and 4 were under  
target.

Specific reference was made to the following:-

**CPH12 – Proportion of facility use by disabled people**

It was explained that the Quarter 2 figure had dipped due to some clubs suspending activities during the summer break and seasonal variations.

**CPH13 – Percentage of population that are within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 different facility types of which 1 has achieved a Quality Assurance Standard**

It was noted that this Indicator was performing on target and Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre was gaining Quest accreditation

**CPH15 – Subsidy per visit**

This Indicator was performing 25p under the subsidy target. This figure was likely to rise in Quarter 3 onwards due to increased unit energy costs.

**XNV212 – Average time taken to relet Local Authority housing**

This was performing 22 days under target. The impact of switching to new arrangements of void management had resulted in increased void turnaround. These issues had now been remedied and turnaround time had improved from the previous Quarter.

**CPS04 – Proportion of private sector vacant dwellings that are returned to use during the financial year with Council involvement.**

The Committee was informed that this Indicator was performing 15% below target. An Empty Homes Strategy had been approved by Cabinet in October, 2008 which would assist in bringing empty private sector homes falling within the appropriate criteria back into use.

**CPS06 – Number of Homeless applications**

It was noted that this Indicator was performing 151 applications above target. The number of homeless applications had continued to reduce due to increased preventative measures.

**CPS11 – Percentage of rent lost due to dwellings becoming vacant**

The above Performance Indicator was .55% under target. The impact of switching to new arrangements of void management had resulted in increased void rent loss. Those issues had now been remedied.

**CPS14 – Percentage of Homeless applications decided and notified within 33 working days**

It was explained that this Indicator was performing 4% under target. Successive preventative measures in the statutory homeless applications submitted meant that more complex cases needed to be dealt with lengthening the timescale before a final decision could be reached on qualification.

*AGREED : That the report be noted.*



**H&S.22/08 "STATE OF THE BOROUGH" - HEALTHY BOROUGH REVIEW GROUP REPORT**

Consideration was given to the State of the Borough (Healthy Borough) Review Group report (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the report covered :-

A summary of the background to the review  
Objectives of the review  
The process and methodology of the review

The following quality of life topics had been examined during the process of the review :-

Public Health  
Community Care  
Leisure and Culture

Key statistics in relation to each of those topics had been identified together with interventions which were in place to address issues, progress being made in relation to those interventions and issues which still needed to be addressed.

The Review Group had reached a number of conclusions and recommendations which were identified in the report.

Cabinet Members then left the meeting to allow the Committee to deliberate.

*AGREED : That the State of the Borough Review (Healthy Borough) be approved and submitted to Cabinet for consideration with other State of the Borough Reviews.*

**H&S.23/08 "STATE OF THE BOROUGH" - STRONG COMMUNITIES REVIEW GROUP REPORT**

Consideration was given to the State of the Borough (Strong Communities) Review Group report (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the report covered :-

A summary of the background to the review  
Objectives of the review  
The process and methodology of the review

The following quality of life topics had been examined by the review group:-

Crime and Disorder  
Community Cohesion and Local Democracy  
Housing

Key statistics in relation to each of those topics had been identified together with interventions which were in place to address issues, progress being made in relation to those interventions and issues which still needed to be addressed.

The Review Group had reached a number of conclusions and recommendations which were identified in the report.

Cabinet Members then left the meeting to allow the Committee to deliberate.

*AGREED : That the State of the Borough Review (Strong Communities) be approved and submitted to Cabinet for consideration with other State of the Borough Reviews.*

**H&S.24/08 WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme for the Healthy Borough with Strong Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. (For copy see file of Minutes).

*AGREED : That the Work Programme be approved.*

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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 Miss. E.A. North, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4237, [enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk)

# Item 6

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 5 FORUM

Town Council Offices,  
School Aycliffe Lane,  
Newton Aycliffe

Tuesday,  
25 November 2008

Time: 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor W. M. Blenkinsopp	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor V. Crosby	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs L. M. Cuthbertson	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G. C. Gray	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs I. Hewitson	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs H. J. Hutchinson	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs S. J. Iveson	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs E. M. Paylor	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor M. Dixon	– Durham County Council
Councillor B. A. Clare	– Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor B. Hall	– Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. D.M. Raw	– Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. A. Clarke	– Middridge Parish Council
J.D. Clare	– Greenfield School
J. Rodwell	– Agnew Community Centre
R. Howe	– Sedgefield Tenants Housing Group
C. Cooper	– Member of the Public
S. R. Cooper	– Member of the Public
K. Dawson	– Member of the Public
M. Iveson	– Member of the Public
M. Topping	– Member of the Public

### In

**Attendance:** A. Megginson and Mrs. G. Garrigan

**Apologies:** Councillor P. Gittins, JP., - Sedgefield Borough Council  
Councillor B. Haigh - Sedgefield Borough Council  
Councillor Mrs. S. Haigh - Sedgefield Borough Council  
Councillor T. Hogan - Sedgefield Borough Council  
Councillor A. Warburton - Sedgefield Borough Council

**AF(5)14/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Members had no interests to declare.

**AF(5)15/08 MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were confirmed as a correct and signed by the Chairman.

**AF(5)16/08 POLICE REPORT**  
Members were disappointed that a representative from the Police had been unable to attend the meeting, especially as a number of residents from Eskdale Place were present to report the anti-social behaviour and criminal damage problems they were encountering in the area.

The problems related to a gang of young people, aged between 14 and 22 years, who were throwing stones at windows in the early hours of the morning, threatening to damage motor vehicles, consuming alcohol in the street, driving motorcycles without helmets and general rowdy nuisance behaviour.

It was pointed out that all of the incidents had been reported to the Police and it was understood that both the Police and the Council's Tenancy Enforcement Officers had operations in progress.

Members requested that a letter be sent to the Police requesting a meeting with residents to discuss the problems in Eskdale Place.

**AF(5)17/08**

**LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which gave an update on project activity in relation to Sedgfield Local Improvement Programme (LIP) (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Forum was reminded that Area 5 had been oversubscribed by £208,065 following the cut-off date of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008 and consequently project activity had been prioritised to ensure that funding was targeted at projects that would have clear community outcomes.

It was noted that Cabinet at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2008 had approved the application to support Agnew Community Centre.

With regard to the 3 non priority projects – St. Josephs Primary School, Aycliffe Village Hall and Newton Aycliffe Scouts Supporters Association it was noted that officers would work with the project sponsors to try and identify other sources of funding.

*AGREED : That the information on the current position of the Local Improvement Programme within Area 5 be received.*

**AF(5)18/08**

**NAMING OF ACCESS ROAD SOUTH OF MILLENNIUM WAY AYCLIFFE BUSINESS PARK**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services regarding a request received from Lidl UK GmbH to officially name the new access road serving its warehouse and distribution facility that were situated on land to the south of Millennium Way, Aycliffe Business Park. (For copy see file of Minutes).

*AGREED : That the Forum supports the name of Riseburn Way for the access road south of Millennium Way, Aycliffe Business Park.*

**AF(5)19/08**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices.

**AF(5)20/08**

**NHS COUNTY DURHAM**

It was reported that the officer from NHS County Durham had been required to attend a meeting at Crook earlier that evening and therefore could not be present at Area 5 Forum from the start of proceedings.

Members agreed to close the meeting as they had no more business to discuss and to invite the representative from NHS County Durham to attend a future meeting of the Forum.

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