

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2008

Present: Councillor C Patching (Chair)
Councillors B Burn, T Longstaff,
Mrs S Mason, D Milsom and
T Unsworth

Apologies: Councillors R Burnip, P J Campbell
and Mrs A E Laing

- 1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 1 April 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

- (i) **Post Office Limited Network Change Programme – Area Plan Proposal for Cleveland with South Durham and Richmond (Minute no 2 refers)**

The Scrutiny Support Manager explained that a response had been received from the post office acknowledging the representations made by the Council. All of the representations would be taken into account when making the final recommendations.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

- (ii) **Aerobic Digester (Minute no 5(ii) refers)**

The Scrutiny Support Manager explained that he had spoken to a representative from Premier Waste and his preference had been to attend a meeting to discuss the current situation. The Scrutiny Support Manager had explained to him that in the first instance the committee would prefer a written response.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

- 2 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE** held on 8 April 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

Item 2 - New National Indicator Set

The Chair referred to the reporting arrangements and the linkages back to the review that was completed by the Partnership Scrutiny Committee into the work of the Local Strategic Partnership. This was consistent with the judgements of the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the minutes, be noted.

- 3 **PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

4 FEEDBACK FROM SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

At the last meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on 14 April 2008, the following issue was discussed:-

County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Member Network – Review of Public Transport

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 SERVICE UNIT PERFORMANCE REPORTING – ENERGY CONSERVATION

Consideration was given to the report of the Energy Manager which provided information on progress with the District of Easington fuel poverty, energy conservation and utility management schemes, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Energy Manager explained that the Over 60's Free Insulation Scheme was targeted at private homeowners. For the period January – March 2008, 120 homes had been insulated at a cost of £47,750.

With regard to insulation programmes to Council dwellings, Peterlee and Seaham had been targeted. Over the period, 140 homes had been insulated at a cost of £35,000.

The government's Warm Front Scheme provided grants for new boilers, central heating and insulation measures. Over the period the scheme had brought £356,550 worth of funding to the district via the Warm Front Scheme and 198 households had received the warm front measures.

The Energy Manager explained that in the twelve month period 2007/2008, £1.5m of external funding for measures had been secured.

From 1 October 2008, all Council public dwellings would need to a display energy certificate in a prominent place clearly visible to the public.

The Chair queried the definition of fuel poverty. The Energy Manager explained that if a household spent more than 10% of their disposable income on fuel then they were regarded as in the fuel poverty category.

The Chair queried the figures for private and Council dwellings and the cost per household. The Energy Manager explained that the Council received matched funding from utilities. Not every property had the same measures installed therefore different amounts were spent on properties.

The Chair thanked and congratulated the Energy Manager for the excellent report.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.