

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESTER-LE-STREET

Report of the meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH3 3UT on Thursday, 20 November 2008 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor D Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors

G Armstrong	A K Holden
L Armstrong	A Humes
S Barr	W Laverick
J W Barrett	M D May
L E W Brown	P B Nathan
R Court	J M Proud
G K Davidson	D L Robson
L Ebbatson	A Turner
M Gollan	S C L Westrip
R Harrison	F Wilkinson
S A Henig	A Willis

Officers: R Templeman (Chief Executive), I Herberon (Head of Corporate Finance), C Potter (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), N Tzamarias (Assistant Director of Development Services), A Stephenson (Senior Sustainability Officer) and C Turnbull (Democratic Services Officer)

There were three members of the public present.

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors DM Holding, C Jukes, PH May, M Sekowski, J Shiell and T Smith.

The Chairman announced that item numbered 6 on the agenda would be considered as the next item for discussion.

Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor L Ebbatson declared a personal but not prejudicial interest and remained in the meeting.

71. NHS COUNTY DURHAM, COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST - 'SEIZING THE FUTURE' - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the public consultation document issued by the NHS County Durham (County Durham Primary Care Trust) on County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust proposals for service reconfiguration, 'Seizing the Future'.

The Chairman welcomed Diane Murphy, Project Manager for Seizing the Future, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Rob Keown, Director of Operations, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Pat Keane, Director of Strategy, Planning and Involvement, NHS County Durham who addressed Members on the consultation document.

'Seizing the Future' was a major review of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust's hospitals to create and deliver a 'compelling clinical vision' for safe, sustainable, high quality services for the 21st century. The Trust provided hospital services from three main sites; -

- Bishop Auckland General Hospital
- Darlington Memorial Hospital
- University Hospital of North Durham

In addition, the Trust ran two community hospitals at Chester-le-Street and Shotley Bridge.

The consultation proposed options to address the challenges the Trust faced, and to provide a better quality of service to patients, and an exciting future for all sites, working closely with general practice and community based services to provide more seamless and integrated care. Two options were proposed in the consultation document and the Trust's preferred option was Option B that enhanced access at Bishop Auckland Hospital for medical patients and strengthened its role as a planned care centre, providing a new and important service that would significantly improve the care of patients needing rehabilitation following acute illness.

Following the presentations, questions were asked by Councillors JM Proud, SCL Westrip, R Harrison, P Nathan, JW Barrett, W Laverick, L Armstrong and L Ebbatson.

Councillor S Barr proposed, seconded by Councillor R Harrison, that the Council support Option B, the preferred option of the Trust.

The Council RESOLVED:

"That the Council's support be for Option B, the preferred option of the Trust."

72. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18 SEPTEMBER 2008

The minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of the District Council held on 18 September 2008 copies of which had previously been circulated, were submitted.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.”

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

73. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

The minutes of the proceedings at the Special Meeting of the District Council held 30 September 2008, copies of which had previously been circulated, were submitted.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.”

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

74. PUBLIC SPEAKING

No requests had been received from members of the public to speak at the meeting in accordance with the Council’s agreed policy.

75. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Councillor L Ebbatson declared a personal interest as recorded prior to minute numbered 71.

76. REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader, Councillor L Ebbatson, advised that the key decisions taken by the Executive on 3 November 2008 had been circulated to Members.

The Leader advised that the Council needed to adopt criteria for the appointment of Aldermen/women and this would be dealt with at the Council Meeting in January 2009 with appointments being made of Alderman/women at a Special Meeting of the Council in March 2009, prior to the ordinary meeting of the Council.

The Leader then reported that Pelton Community Centre had reached the final of Peoples Millions to develop a garden area at the Centre and there would be a phone-in competition on ITV Regional News at 6.00pm on Wednesday 26 November 2008.

In conclusion, the Leader wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councillor A Humes left the meeting at 7.10pm.

77. REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

a. Neighbourhood Services

Councillor SCL Westrip advised that he would include his report in the next issue of Members Update.

b. Community Engagement and Partnerships

There was no report from Councillor M Sekowski.

c. Regeneration and Strategic Planning

There was no report from Councillor CJ Jukes.

d. Resources and Value for Money

Councillor L Armstrong extended congratulations to members of the ICT Team on strengthening their national standing by getting additional recognition from the Customer Service Excellence Assessment Services. He advised that the Team was recognised as meeting all 63 standards set by the CSEAS. Overall the Charter Mark standard measured against excellence in areas such as planning, value for money, commitment to wider community, regularly raising standards, performing well compared to other organisations, consulting with customers and communications..

78. QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Councillor S Barr advised that Pelton Fell had been awarded £337,000 funding that was the final piece in the jigsaw. He expressed thanks to the Leader, the Portfolio Holder Councillor CJ Jukes, the Chief Executive and members of the Regeneration Team for their help and support.

79. TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD 16 SEPTEMBER 2008

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the report of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16 September 2008 copies of which had previously been circulated, be accepted.”

80. TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD 17 OCTOBER 2008

The report of the Special Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 17 October 2008, copies of which had previously been circulated, was submitted.

Councillor G Armstrong advised it was the first time that the Audit Committee had approved the Statement of Accounts and associated papers. He thanked all Officers for the immense amount of work over a long time to achieve the outcome.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the report be accepted.”

81. AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

Consideration was given to a report from the Chief Executive on amendments to the schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations, copies of which had previously been circulated.

The Democratic Services Officer advised that as a consequence of local government reorganisation, with effect from 1 April 2009 there would be one Electoral Register for the whole of the County Council area. In order to achieve this it was necessary to revise all of the Polling District letters to avoid duplication of the letters and this revision would be effective for the Electoral Register to be published on 1 December 2008. At its meeting on 29 November 2007 the Council agreed to a revised schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations and it would be necessary to formally amend the schedule to reflect the new Polling Station letters.

A revised list of amended Polling District letters was circulated at the meeting.

Councillor L Ebbatson proposed, seconded by Councillor L Armstrong, that the recommendation included in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations agreed at the Council Meeting on 29 November 2007 be amended to reflect the new Polling District letters detailed on the revised list circulated at the meeting.”

82. HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS - CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 2008/2009

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to holiday arrangements for the Christmas and New Year period 2008/2009, copies of which had previously been circulated.

The Chief Executive introduced the report.

Councillor L Ebbatson proposed, seconded by Councillor R Harrison, that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“1. That the Christmas and New Year holiday arrangements for 2008/2009 be as follows: -

Wednesday 24 December 2008	Normal working morning/ Concessionary half day – afternoon
Thursday 25 December 2008	Christmas Day
Friday 26 December 2008	Boxing Day
Monday 29 December 2008	Extra Statutory Day
Tuesday 30 December 2008	Extra Statutory Day
Wednesday 31 December 2008	Concessionary Day
Thursday 1 January 2009	New Year’s Day
Friday 2 January 2009	Official return to work day

2. That employees who are required to work on extra statutory holidays/concessionary days be given time in lieu to be taken at a later date in consultation with the appropriate Service Team Manager.”

83. A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR CHESTER-LE-STREET

Consideration was given to a report from the Senior Sustainability Officer seeking approval of the climate change strategy for Chester-le-Street, copies of which had previously been circulated.

The Senior Sustainability Officer introduced the report and advised that the carbon emissions from domestic premises were a high percentage in Chester-le-Street because of the low volume of industry. He reported that the carbon neutral scheme proposed for Edmondsley had not been finalised because national funding had not been received. He confirmed that funding for insulation schemes would continue until 2010.

Councillor L Ebbatson proposed, seconded by Councillor SCL Westrip, that the recommendation included in the report be approved.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, appended to the report, be approved and adopted.”

Councillor P Nathan voted against the motion.

84. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

85. CONFERENCES

There were no invitations to attend conferences.

86. COMMON SEAL

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the action of the Officer in affixing the Common Seal of the Council to the following documents be confirmed:

Section 21 Order – Road Closure Annual Remembrance Parade 9 November 2008 – 10.00am to 10.45am

Section 21 Order – Road Closure Annual Remembrance Parade 9 November 2008 – 11.30am to 12.30pm

Transfer in relation to land east side of Merlin Drive, North Lodge, Chester-le-Street.”

The meeting terminated at 7.35 pm

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