

COUNCIL

Friday,
29 June 2007
11.00 a.m.

Council Chamber,
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 later in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on :-

(a) **18th May 2007** (Pages 1 - 16)

(b) **20th April 2007** (Pages 17 - 18)

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. THE NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services (Pages 19 - 22)

6. LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Report of Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer (Pages 23 - 50)

7. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Report of Director of Resources (Copy to follow) (Pages 51 - 66)

8. CORPORATE PLAN 2007-10

Report of Chief Executive (Pages 67 - 74)

9. SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

(a) Core Strategy Preferred Options

Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services (Pages 75 - 80)

(b) Major Allocations Alternative Options Report

Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services (Pages 81 - 84)

(c) Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services (Pages 85 - 90)

(d) Incorporating A Renewable Energy Obligation Into Developments

Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services
(Pages 91 - 100)

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The following item is not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. As such it is envisaged that an appropriate resolution will be passed at the meeting to exclude the press and public.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHMENT

Report of Chief Executive (Pages 101 - 106)

B.Allen
Chief Executive

Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
21st June 2007

Councillor Mrs. S. J. Iveson (Mayor) and

All other Members of the Council

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact
Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

Item 3a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Chamber,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Friday,
18 May 2007

Time: 11.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels (Mayor) and

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, B.F. Avery J.P, Mrs. D. Bowman, D.R. Brown, J. Burton, V. Chapman, D. Chaytor, Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. P. Crathorne, V. Crosby, T.F. Forrest, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, D.M. Hancock, J.E. Higgin, A. Hodgson, G.M.R. Howe, J.G. Huntington, Mrs. S. J. Iveson, Mrs. I. Jackson, J.M. Khan, B. Lamb, Mrs. E. Maddison, C. Nelson, B.M. Ord, Mrs. C. Potts, J. Robinson J.P, A. Smith, B. Stephens, K. Thompson, T. Ward, W. Waters, J. Wayman J.P and Mrs E. M. Wood

Apologies: Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T. Brimm, Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, D. Farry, P. Gittins, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, Mrs. I. Hewitson, T. Hogan, Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson, D.A. Newell, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and A. Warburton

MAYORS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mayor referred to her year in office, which she had found to be extremely busy and most enjoyable.

She had attended many events and had been most impressed and touched by the variety of people she had been privileged to meet. They included centenarians as well as couples celebrating notable wedding anniversaries. She had tried to involve schools and young people throughout her civic year and had enjoyed the occasions when they had visited the Council Offices to learn about a Mayor's role and how the Council functions and the services provided.

Specific reference was made to her nominated charities the Learning Library, Spennymoor and Little Hands, Kenya, for which she had raised £12,788 during her term in office. She thanked the local community, business sector and members of staff for their support and generosity.

Councillor Mrs. Hovvels presented Jackie Heslop, Manager of The Learning Library, and Helen Rolfe, representative of Little Hands, Kenya with cheques. Both Jackie Heslop and Helen Rolfe expressed their thanks and appreciation for the donations.

She also expressed her thanks to Councillor Brian Hall for the support and assistance he had given her throughout the past year .

C.1/07

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

C.2/07

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

RESOLVED : That Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson be elected Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

Councillor Mrs. Iveson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor and took the Chair.

Councillor Mrs. Iveson said that it was an honour and a tremendous privilege to accept the position of Mayor and she would endeavour to carry out the duties with dignity and commitment that the position merits.

Her chosen charity for the year would be the Children's Diabetes Trust Fund, which was a fund for children with diabetes who were suitable to be treated with insulin pumps.

She presented Councillor Mrs. Hovvells with a gift to commemorate her year in office and acknowledge the commitment she had shown in carrying out her duties.

C.3/07

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESOLVED : That Councillor J. Robinson, JP., be elected Deputy Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

Councillor J. Robinson, JP., signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor.

C.4/07

APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED : That Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong be elected Leader of the Council for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

C.5/07

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED : That Councillor V. Crosby be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

C.6/07

ELECTION OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS - 3rd MAY 2007 RESULTS OF POLL

Consideration was given to a report of the Returning Officer detailing the results of the Borough Council Elections held on 3rd May 2007. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the report be received.

C.7/07

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive seeking approval to amend the Council's Constitution in respect of the remit of the Employment Issues Panel. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that the proposals for change, detailed in the appendix to the report, reflected the additional responsibilities placed on the Panel in relation to the retirement policies that had been agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 26th April 2007.

RESOLVED : *That the amendments set out in the Appendix be approved and the Council's Monitoring Officer be directed to :*

- a) *Amend the Constitution accordingly and make all necessary and consequential amendments.*
- b) *Publish an amended version on the Council's website.*

C.8/07

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS) REGULATIONS 1990

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive regarding the allocation of seats on Committees to Political Groups in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report also set out the membership of political groups following the Local Elections on 3rd May 2007.

- RESOLVED :**
1. *That the allocation of seats to political groups be in accordance with the schedule attached to the report. (Appendix A).*
 2. *That the membership of political groups be noted. (Appendix B).*

CABINET, COMMITTEES, PANELS, FORUMS, WORKING PARTIES AND GROUPS: MEMBERSHIP 2007/08

C.9/07

CABINET

RESOLVED : *That the Cabinet comprises the following Members :*

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong	Strategic Leadership
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy	Community Health
Councillor V. Crosby	Social Regeneration & Partnership
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham	Leisure & Culture
Councillor A. Hodgson	Environment
Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels	Learning & Employment
Councillor J.M. Khan	Safer Communities
Councillor D. A. Newell	Planning & Development
Councillor W. Waters	Housing

C.10/07

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED : That the Strategic Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprises the following Members:

Chairman : Councillor A. Gray
Vice-Chairman: Councillor B.F. Avery J.P.

Members : Councillor D.R. Brown
Councillor V. Chapman
Councillor D. Farry
Councillor T.F. Forrest
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray
Councillor B. Haigh
Councillor T. Hogan
Councillor Ms. I. Jackson
Councillor B.M. Ord

C.11/07

HEALTHY BOROUGH WITH STRONG COMMUNITIES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED : That the Healthy Borough With Strong Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprises the following Members:

Chairman : Councillor J.E. Higgin
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne

Members : Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp
Councillor D. Bowman
Councillor J. Burton
Councillor Mrs. S. Haigh
Councillor Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor K. Thompson
Councillor T. Ward
Councillor J. Wayman, J.P.
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Wood

Plus 2 Co-optees (non-voting)

C.12/07

PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED : That the Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprises the following Members:

Chairman : Councillor G.C. Gray
Vice-Chairman: Councillor B. Lamb

Members : Councillor Mrs. L. Cuthbertson
Councillor P. Gittins
Councillor D.M. Hancock
Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson
Councillor G.M.R. Howe
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison
Councillor B. Stephens
Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Councillor A. Smith
Councillor A. Warburton

Plus 2 Co-optees (non-voting)

C.13/07

AUDIT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED : That the Audit Committee comprises the following Members:

Chairman : Councillor D. Chaytor
Vice-Chairman: Councillor J.G. Huntington

Members : Councillor T.D. Brimm
Councillor C. Nelson
Councillor Mrs. C. Potts
Councillor B. Stephens
Mr B. Argyle (Co-Opted Member - Non Voting)

C.14/07

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED : That the Development Control Committee comprises the following Members :

Chairman : Councillor A. Smith
Vice-Chairman: Councillor B. Stephens

Members : All Members of the Council

C.15/07

LICENSING COMMITTEE 1

RESOLVED : That the Licensing Committee 1 comprises the following Members:

Chairman : Councillor C. Nelson
Vice-Chairman: Councillor T. Ward

Members : Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp
Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne
Councillor Mrs. L. Cuthbertson
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham
Councillor A. Gray
Councillor D.M. Hancock
Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson

Councillor J.E. Higgin
Councillor A. Hodgson
Councillor T. Hogan
Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels
Councillor J.G. Huntington
Councillor J.M. Khan
Councillor B. Lamb
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor J. Robinson, JP.
Councillor K. Thompson

C.16/07

LICENSING COMMITTEE 2

RESOLVED : That the Licensing Committee 2 comprises the following Members :

Chairman : Councillor T. F. Forrest
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. J. Gray

Members : Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman
Councillor D.R. Brown
Councillor J. Burton
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy
Councillor P. Gittins
Councillor G.C. Gray
Councillor Mrs. S. Haigh
Councillor G.M.R. Howe
Councillor Ms. I. Jackson
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison
Councillor Mrs. C. Potts
Councillor A. Warburton
Councillor W. Waters

C.17/07

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED : That the Standards Committee comprises the following Members:

Chairman Mr. L. Petterson (Independent Co-optee)

Members Councillor A. Gray
Councillor T. Hogan
Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison
Councillor J. Wayman, J.P.
Mr.I. Jamieson (Independent Co-optee)

Plus 1 Parish/Town Council Representative

C.18/07

APPEALS/REVIEW PANEL

RESOLVED : That the Appeals/Review Panel comprises the following Members:

Chairman : To be appointed at each meeting.

Members
Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp
Councillor T. Brimm
Councillor V. Chapman
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy
Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne
Councillor V. Crosby
Councillor D. Farry
Councillor G. C. Gray
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray
Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson
Councillor G.M.R. Howe
Councillor J.G. Huntington
Councillor J. M. Khan
Councillor C. Nelson
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor Mrs. C. Potts
Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Councillor T. Ward
Councillor J. Wayman, J.P.

A Panel of 3 Members to be selected as and when required by the Chief Executive.

C.19/07

CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS PANEL

RESOLVED : That the Chief Officer Appointments Panel comprises the following Members:

Chairman: Councillor Mrs A.M. Armstrong

Members:
Councillor V. Crosby
Councillor T. F. Forrest
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham
Councillor T. Hogan
Councillor Ms. I. Jackson
Councillors Mrs. E.M. Wood

C.20/07

EMPLOYMENT ISSUES PANEL

RESOLVED : That the Employment Issues Panel comprises the following Members:

Chairman: Councillor A. Hodgson

Members:
Councillor A. Gray
Councillor G. C. Gray
Councillor D.M. Hancock

Councillor Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison
Councillor A. Smith

C.21/07 PERSONNEL APPEALS PANEL

RESOLVED : *That the Personnel Appeals Panel comprises the following Members:*

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. A. Armstrong

Members Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp
Councillor V. Chapman
Councillor P. Crathorne
Councillor V. Crosby
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham
Councillor G.C. Gray
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray
Councillor T. Hogan
Councillor B. M. Ord
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor J. Wayman, J.P.

C.22/07 AREA 1 FORUM

RESOLVED : *That the Area 1 Forum comprises the following Members:*

(All Members representing the Spennymoor, Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange, Middlestone and Tudhoe Wards, together with representatives from Town and Parish Councils and other organisations as appropriate)

Chairman : Councillor A. Smith
Vice-Chairman : Councillor C. Nelson

Members : Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham
Councillor A. Gray
Councillor J.M. Khan
Councillor Mrs. E.Maddison
Councillor B.M. Ord
Councillor K. Thompson
Councillor W. Waters
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Wood

C.23/07 AREA 2 FORUM

RESOLVED : *That the Area 2 Forum comprises the following Members :*

(All Members representing the Bishop Middleham and Cornforth, Broom, Chilton, and Ferryhill Wards, together with representatives from Town and Parish Councils and other organisations as appropriate).

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. C. Potts
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne

Members : Councillor B.F. Avery, J.P.
Councillor T.D. Brimm
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy
Councillor D. Farry
Councillor T.F. Forrest
Councillor J.E.Higgin
Councillor .A. Hodgson
Councillor B. Lamb
Councillor D.A. Newell

C.24/07

AREA 3 FORUM

RESOLVED : *That the Area 3 Forum comprises the following Members :*

(All Members representing the Fishburn & Old Trimdon, Sedgfield, New Trimdon & Trimdon Grange Wards, together with representatives from Town and Parish Councils and other organisations as appropriate)

Chairman : Councillor J. Burton
Vice-Chairman : Councillor T. Ward

Members : Councillor D.R. Brown
Councillor D. Chaytor
Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels
Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Councillor J. Wayman, J.P.

C.25/07

AREA 4 FORUM

RESOLVED : *That the Area 4 Forum comprises the following Members :*

(All Members representing the Byerley, Sunnydale and Thickey Wards, together with representatives from Town and Parish Councils and other organisations as appropriate)

Chairman : Councillor B. Stephens
Vice-Chairman : Councillor V. Chapman

Members : Councillor D.M. Hancock
Councillor G.M.R. Howe
Councillor J.G. Huntington
Councillor Ms. I. Jackson

C.26/07

AREA 5 FORUM

RESOLVED : *That the Area 5 Forum comprises the following Members :*

(All Members representing the Greenfield Middridge, Neville & Simpasture, Shafto St. Marys, West and Woodham Wards, together with representatives from Town and Parish Councils and other organisations as appropriate)

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman
Vice-Chairman : Councillor G.C. Gray

Members : Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp
Councillor V. Crosby
Councillor Mrs. L. Cuthbertson
Councillor P. Gittins
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray
Councillor B. Haigh
Councillor Mrs. S. Haigh
Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson
Councillor T. Hogan
Councillor Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson
Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor A. Warburton

C.27/07

BOROUGH/PARISH RELATIONS WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED : *That the Borough/Parish Relations Working Party comprises the following Members :-*

Chairman: To be appointed at the first meeting of the Working Party
Vice Chairman: To be appointed at the first meeting of the Working Party
Members:

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy
Councillor V. Crosby
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham
Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels
Councillor A. Hodgson
Councillor J.G. Huntington
Councillor Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson
Councillor Mrs. S. J. Iveson
Councillor J.M. Khan
Councillor D.A. Newell
Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Councillor A. Smith
Councillor W. Waters

Plus representatives of all Town and Parish Councils/Meetings.

C.28/07

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS 2007/2008

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive in respect of representation on outside organisations. (For copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED : *That representation on outside organisations for 2007/08 be as follows :*

Strategic Leadership (Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/Notes
Association of Councillors (Northern Branch)	
Association of North East Councils	Deputy Leader acting as substitute
Association of Public Service Excellence.	
County Durham Association of Local Authorities	Together with the Deputy Leader
Local Government Association (Assembly)	
Local Government Association (Rural Commission)	
Local Government Association Special Interest Group (New Towns)	
North East Regional Assembly	
North East Regional Assembly – Regional Development Forum	

Community Health Portfolio (Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/ Notes
Council for Age Concern (Durham County)	
North Regional Home Safety Council	
Sedgefield Partnership Board for Services to Vulnerable Adults	Substitute Councillor Mrs. A. M. Armstrong
Supporting People Cross Authority Members' Group	Together with Cabinet Members for Safer Communities (Councillor J.M. Khan) and Housing (Councillor W. Waters)

Leisure & Culture Portfolio (Councillor Mrs. B. Graham)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/ Notes
Durham County Sports Association for the Disabled	
National Playing Fields Association (Northern Steering Committee)	
North East Museums, Libraries and Archives Service	
North East Sport	
Northern Arts Local Authority Forum	
Northumbria Tourist Board (Local Authority Meeting)	
Sedgefield Arts and Recreation Community Association (Ceddesfeld Hall).	
The Hackworth Society	

Housing Portfolio (Councillor W. Waters)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/ Notes
National Housing and Town Planning Council (Regional Executive Committee)	Together with Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration & Partnership (Councillor V. Crosby)
Northern Housing Consortium Ltd	Appointed as 'observer'

Safer Communities Portfolio (Councillor J.M. Khan)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/ Notes
Local Police/Public Consultative Committee	Together with Councillor G.C. Gray

Learning & Employment Portfolio (Councillor Mrs L. Hovvels)

Organisation	Additional Membership/Substitution/ Notes
Aycliffe Learning Town Partnership	
County Durham Life Long Learning Partnership	
ITeC North East Limited	Together with Councillor D. Chaytor
Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Forum	Together with Councillor Mrs. J. Gray
Sildon and Sedgfield Development Agency - Board (SASDA)	Together with Leader of the Council (Councillor Mrs A.M. Armstrong)
Spennymoor Town Centre Forum	Together with Councillors A. Gray and A. Smith

Social Regeneration & Partnership Portfolio (Councillor V. Crosby)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/ Notes
Coalfield Communities Campaign	Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels acting as substitute)
Cornforth Partnership (Management Committee)	Together with Councillors A. Hodgson and T.D. Brimm
County Durham and Darlington SRB Programme Partnership Board	
County Durham Compact Implementation Group	
County Durham Strategic Partnership	
Fishburn Community Skill Centre Project	Together with Councillor T. Ward
Groundwork East Durham (Board)	Councillor A. Hodgson
LGA Member Task Group – Gypsies and Travellers	
Local Area Agreement Interim Board	

Sedgefield and District Advice and Information Service (Management Committee)	Together with Councillors B. F. Avery, J.P., G.C. Gray, J.M. Khan and Mrs. C. Potts
Sedgefield Borough Local Strategic Partnership	
Trimdon 2000 Partnership Steering Group	

Environment Portfolio (Councillor A. Hodgson)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/ Notes
Institute of Solid Wastes Management	
Investigation of Air Pollution (Standing Conference)	
ENCAMS (Formerly Keep Britain Tidy Group)	Together with Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration & Partnership (Councillor V. Crosby)
National Society for Clean Air	Together with Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration & Partnership Councillor V. Crosby)
Sustainable Waste Management Strategy for County Durham Joint Steering Group	

Additional Representation

Organisation	Membership
Chilton Community College Association (Management Committee)	Councillors for the Chilton Ward (Councillors B.F. Avery, J.P., T.F. Forrest and Mrs. C. Potts)
County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority (Strategic Alliances Group)	Cabinet Member for Community Health (Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy) Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor A. Hodgson) acting as substitute as and when necessary.
County Durham E-Government Partnership Joint Committee	Councillor D. A. Newell with Councillor J.M. Khan acting as substitute.
Durham County Councils Health Scrutiny Committee	Councillors A. Gray and Mrs. P. Crathorne

Durham Rural Community Council	Councillor A. Hodgson
Durham Tees Valley Airport Consultative Committee	Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Environmental Services Joint Committee	Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor A. Hodgson) Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration and Partnership (Councillor V. Crosby)
Greenfield School (Newton Aycliffe) Shared Use Scheme (Management Committee)	Councillor Mrs. B. Graham
Jubilee Fields Community Association	Councillor V. Chapman
Koolkash Management Board	Leader of the Council (Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong) Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture (Councillor Mrs. B. Graham) and Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Locomotion Management Board	Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture (Councillor Mrs. B. Graham) Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration and Partnership (Councillor V. Crosby) Director of Leisure Services Plus 3 Representatives of the National Railway Museum
Middlestone Moor Youth Centre Committee	Councillor C. Nelson
Nature Reserve Management Committee - Cow Plantation, Spennymoor	Councillor A. Smith
Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre (Management Committee)	Councillor G.C. Gray
North East Region Employers' Organisation	Councillors A. Gray and V. Crosby
North East Regional Employers Organisation – Member Development Forum	Councillor A. Gray
Northern Regional Brass Band Trust	Councillor W. Waters
Sedgefield Borough Twinning Association	Mayor Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson (President of the Association) Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, G.C. Gray, Mrs. L. Hovvels, B. Lamb, J. Robinson, J.P. and T. Ward
Spennymoor Youth and Community Association (Management Committee)	Councillor A. Gray

Trimdon Community College Association (Management Committee)	Councillors J. Burton, D. Chaytor and T. Ward
Joint Durham Councils Transport Scrutiny Review Group	Councillors J. E. Higgin and A. Gray

C.29/07

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS 2007/2008

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive regarding the programme of meetings for the 2007/08 Municipal Year. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That Cabinet, Committees, Panels, Forums and Working Parties meet on the dates and times set out in the report for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

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 01388 816166 ext 4237 email: enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

Item 3b

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Chamber,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Friday,
20 April 2007

Time: 11.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels (Mayor) and

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, Mrs. A.M. Fleming, R.S. Fleming, T.F. Forrest, Mrs. B. Graham, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, A. Hodgson, G.M.R. Howe, J.G. Huntington, M. Iveson, M.T.B. Jones, J.M. Khan, J.P. Moran, G. Morgan, K. Noble, B.M. Ord, R.A. Patchett, J. Robinson J.P, G.W. Scott, A. Smith, J.M. Smith, Mrs. I. Jackson Smith, Mrs. C. Sproat, W. Waters and J. Wayman J.P

Apologies: Councillors B.F. Avery J.P, D.R. Brown, J. Burton, Mrs. J. Croft, M.A. Dalton, A. Gray, D.M. Hancock, J.E. Higgin, B. Meek, D.A. Newell, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, J.K. Piggott, Mrs. C. Potts, Ms. M. Predki, Mrs. L. Smith, K. Thompson and T. Ward

C.75/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

C.76/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C.77/06 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that since the last meeting she had attended 22 functions and events including :- events at Spennymoor Rotary Club, the Bowls Trophy Presentation at Ferryhill Leisure Centre and a Social Evening hosted by Sedgefield Borough Twinning Association at Ferryhill. She had also attended four retirement events for members of staff.

In addition the Mayor reported that she had attended a number of charity evenings, civic balls as well as diamond and golden wedding anniversary celebrations.

C.78/06 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) dealing with a further Review of the Council's Constitution for the purposes of Article 16 of the Constitution.

It was explained that the recommendations in the report were based on advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer, following meetings of the Constitutional Review Group and reflected areas where it was considered appropriate to make further changes in particular :-

- Changes to Overview and Scrutiny Committees proposed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on 20th February, 2007.

- Changes to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers proposed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services to assist in the implementation of the Health Act 2006.

RESOLVED : *That the amendments set out in the Appendix to the report be approved and the Monitoring Officer be directed to :-*

- 1. Amend the Constitution accordingly and make all the necessary and consequential amendments.*
- 2. Publish the amended version of the Constitution on the Council's website.*

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 01388 816166 ext 4237 email: enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

Item 5

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: 29th June 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Corporate Ambition: ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH
Portfolio: ENVIRONMENT

Proposal to Sign the 'Nottingham Declaration' on Climate Change

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The 'Nottingham Declaration' is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change and it represents a high-level, broad statement of commitment. It acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our communities during the 21st century and commits SBC to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our Borough.

2 RECOMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council endorses the signing of the Nottingham Declaration by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

3 The Nottingham Declaration

- 3.1 The Nottingham Declaration was originally launched in October 2000 and has now over 200 Local Government signatories and is supported by DEFRA, IDeA, LGA and the Environment Agency. In signing the Declaration, Sedgefield Borough Council will acknowledge that:

- Climate change is occurring; and
- Climate change will have far reaching effects on the UK's people, society, economy and environment.

- 3.2 It will also commit the Council to:

- Help deliver the UK Climate Change Programme and associated carbon dioxide reduction targets.
- Participate in local and regional networks.
- Within two years develop plans with partners and the local community to address the causes and impacts of climate change.
- Publicly declare, with plans and strategies, our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and communities and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors within the community to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.
- To monitor publicly the progress of our plans and strategies.

- 3.3 The commitments made by signing the declaration will, in part, be met by the forthcoming SBC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy, developed in consultation with senior managers, is based on the Council's current activities and service areas and is reflective of the Council's desire to make climate change a central theme in all future policies, strategies and activities. The Strategy and Action Plan will be submitted to Cabinet in August 2007 for consideration.
- 3.4 A presentation on the development of the SBC Climate Change Strategy was given to Development Control Committee in January 2007. There is to be a follow-up report and presentation to the 'Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee' on the 10th July. This will outline the background to the Strategy and detail the aims, objectives and targets for the Action Plan.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There will be no direct resource implications involved in signing the Declaration.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 There has been no direct consultation on signing the Nottingham Declaration. However, consultation is currently underway in respect of implementing the commitments within the Declaration, with regard to developing the SBC Climate Change Strategy.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Equality and Diversity

N/A

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

N/A

6.3 Links to Community Strategy / Corporate Plan

Corporate Ambition	Community Outcome	2006 Aim
Attractive Borough	Ensuring a cleaner greener environment	<i>Aim A1</i> – Monitor and improve local environmental conditions
	Reducing waste and managing natural resources	<i>Aim A6</i> - Raise awareness of sustainability issues within the Council and external organisations
Corporate Values	Be responsible with and accountable for public finances	<i>Aim C7</i> – Identify year-on-year efficiency gains from the conception, procurement, and delivery of goods, services and works

6.4 Risk Management

The Declaration is a voluntary pledge and therefore has minimal risk implications.

6.5 Sustainability

The Declaration supports the economic, social and environmental aspirations of the Council.

6.6 Social Inclusion

N/A

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 N/A

Contact Officers: Stephen McDonald
Telephone No: (01388) 816166 ext 4638
Email Address: smcdonald@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation: N/A

Background Papers: N/A

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Item 6

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29th JUNE 2007

REPORT OF SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The decision to amend the Code of Conduct so as to make it more effective and proportionate formed part of the Government's wider review of the conduct regime, the revised Code is clearer but maintains a rigorous approach to the identification of serious misconduct.
- 1.2 The revised Code of Conduct has been approved by the Government and came into force on the 3rd May 2007.
- 1.3 A brief presentation will be made at the meeting, "Standards Board for England Code of Conduct 2007 Presentation".

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Standards Committee note the changes and implementation of the revised Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 That by approval of full Council, the Revised Code of Conduct be adopted unamended and that the Council adopts the 10 General principles as an annex to the new Code; (see Appendix 1);
- 2.3 That Parish and Town Councils adopt the Parish and Town Council Model Code of Conduct; (see Appendix 2).
- 2.4 That consequential changes be made to the Council's Constitution.
- 2.5 That the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice be amended to take account of the changes and be tabled at the next Development Control Committee on 29th July 2007.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 On the 4th April 2007 the Government tabled in Parliament the revised Model Code of Conduct for Members. The revised Code came into force on the 3rd May 2007 and all Local Authorities now have 6 months to adopt the revised Code. S.51 of the Local Government Act 2000 states that Authorities have 6 months from the date the order was made, (2nd April 2007) to adopt the revised Code. Therefore, if not adopted by 1st

October 2007 will apply automatically. Parish and Town Councils are to make their own arrangements for the adoption of their new Codes.

- 3.2 In order to facilitate implementation, ensure consistency across authorities and assist Members to understand the revised Code, the Standards Board recommend that Local Authorities adopt the revised Code at their first opportunity and without amendment. This will give certainty to Members and the public as to what standards are expected, ensure consistency throughout the Country, and minimise the legal risk of any Authority adopting additional provisions, which are unenforceable.
- 3.3 However, it is also recommended that Local Authorities adopt the ten General principles as a non-enforceable pre-amble or annex to the Code to remind Members and the public of the principles underlying the Code.
- 3.4 The main changes to the Code made by the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 include:
- clarification, making the language in which it is written gender-neutral;
 - amending the rules relating to prejudicial interests, so that a Member only has a prejudicial interest where his/her interest is greater than that of the majority of people in the ward affected by the matter, rather than merely greater than the interest of other people in the Council's area;
 - allowing Members with a prejudicial interest to speak at Council meetings providing this is to solely allow them to make representations, answer questions or give evidence, but not to vote;
 - applying the Code to Members' conduct in their private capacity where such conduct has resulted in a criminal conviction;
 - a clear provision stating that bullying should play no part in Member's conduct;
 - the disclosure of information of a confidential nature where it is in the public interest to do so;
 - the deletion of "unlawful discrimination" to ensure that this is not an issue on which a Panel may be required to make a determination;
 - a provision ensuring that no Member should either use or attempt to use his or her position to confer an advantage or disadvantage for himself/herself or anyone else;
 - the deletion of the requirement to report other Members' breaches of the Code to the Standards Board as it is thought to encourage trivial complaints;
 - the requirement that gifts/hospitality over the value of £25 are included in the Register of Interests; but to ensure that this provision

is proportionate, the requirement to disclose the personal interest in a meeting would cease after 3 years but remain on the Register;

- the requirement that a personal interest arises only where the interest might reasonably be regarded as affecting the Member to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward.

3.5 **Training Events:** All the changes to the Code of Conduct were covered by the Monitoring Officer at the Post Election Member Induction on Standards and Ethics, which was held on the 10th May 2007. A training session facilitated by Peter Keith-Lucas of Bevan Brittan Solicitors took place on the 27th June 2007, and covered in detail the changes to the Code.

3.6 A Standards Board Roadshow also took place in Newcastle on the 12th June 2007, where the Council was represented.

3.7 **Future Training Events:** In the autumn of 2007 several training sessions are planned, including the screening of the Standards Board's Videos/DVDs and a presentation on Regulatory Committees.

3.8 Training for Parish and Town Councils on the revised Code is also planned for the autumn.

3.9 **Members Planning Code of Good Practice:** Development Control Committee approved the ACSeS Planning Code of Good Practice on 29th April 2005. This will need to be updated in the light of the changes to the Code of Conduct.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No specific financial implications have been identified.

5. CONSULTATIONS

5.1 This report has been passed to Parish and Town Councils for their guidance.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 All material considerations have been taken into account in the contents of this report. In particular, risks may arise unless Members of Council are fully apprised on standards matters.

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None apply.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1: The Revised Code of Conduct and Ten General Principles
- 8.2 Appendix 2: The Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils
- 8.3 Appendix 3: Standards Board for England Code of Conduct 2007:
Training Presentation Handout
- 8.4 The Code of Conduct Guide for members 2007 – Standards Board for
England Booklet

Contact Officer: Dennis A. Hall/Laura Starrs
Telephone Number: 01388 816166, Ext. 4268
E-mail address: dahall@sedgefield.gov.uk

Wards: N/A

Key Decision Validation: N/A

Background Papers

Report to Standards Committee – *Implementation of the Revised Model Code of Conduct for Members*

Report to Standards Committee – *Revised Model Code of Conduct for Members*

SI 2007 No. 1159 *The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007*

ACSeS Planning Code of Good Practice (approved by Development Control Committee dated 29th April 2005)

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Members' Code of Conduct

Part 1

General provisions

Introduction and interpretation

1. (1) This Code applies to **you** as a member of an authority.
- (2) You should read this Code together with the general principles prescribed by the Secretary of State
- (3) It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.

(4) In this Code—

"meeting" means any meeting of—

- (a) the authority;
- (b) the executive of the authority;
- (c) any of the authority's or its executive's committees, sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees, or area committees;

"member" includes a co-opted member and an appointed member.

(5) In relation to a parish council, references to an authority's monitoring officer and an authority's standards committee shall be read, respectively, as references to the monitoring officer and the standards committee of the district council or unitary county council which has functions in relation to the parish council for which it is responsible under section 55(12) of the Local Government Act 2000.

Scope

2. (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), you must comply with this Code whenever you—
 - (a) conduct the business of your authority (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or
 - (b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority,

and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), this Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity.

(3) In addition to having effect in relation to conduct in your official capacity, paragraphs 3(2)(c), 5 and 6(a) also have effect, at any other time, where that conduct constitutes a criminal offence for which you have been convicted.

(4) Conduct to which this Code applies (whether that is conduct in your official capacity or conduct mentioned in sub-paragraph (3)) includes a criminal offence for which you are convicted (including an offence you committed before the date you took office, but for which you are convicted after that date).

(5) Where you act as a representative of your authority—

(a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority's code of conduct; or

(b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your authority's code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

General obligations

3. (1) You must treat others with respect.

(2) You must not—

(a) do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 33 of the Equality Act 2006);

(b) bully any person;

(c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be—

(i) a complainant,

(ii) a witness, or

(iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings,

in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct;

or

(d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.

(3) In relation to police authorities and the Metropolitan Police Authority, for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(d) those who work for, or on behalf of, an authority are deemed to include a police officer.

4. You must not—

(a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where—

(i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;

(ii) you are required by law to do so;

(iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or

(iv) the disclosure is—

(aa) reasonable and in the public interest; and

(bb) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or

(b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

6. You—

(a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and

(b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority—

(i) act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements;

(ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and

(c) must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

7. —(1) When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by—

(a) your authority's chief finance officer; or

(b) your authority's monitoring officer,

where that officer is acting pursuant to his or her statutory duties.

(2) You must give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by your authority.

Part 2

Interests

Personal interests

8. —(1) You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where either—
- (a) it relates to or is likely to affect—
- (i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
 - (ii) any body—
 - (aa) exercising functions of a public nature;
 - (bb) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (cc) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union),
 of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
 - (iii) any employment or business carried on by you;
 - (iv) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;
 - (v) any person or body, other than a relevant authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;
 - (vi) any person or body who has a place of business or land in your authority's area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);
 - (vii) any contract for goods, services or works made between your authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);
 - (viii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25;

(ix) any land in your authority's area in which you have a beneficial interest;

(x) any land where the landlord is your authority and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;

(xi) any land in the authority's area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer; or

(b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of—

(i) (in the case of authorities with electoral divisions or wards) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision;

(ii) (in the case of the Greater London Authority) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the Assembly constituency affected by the decision; or

(iii) (in all other cases) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of your authority's area.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), a relevant person is—

(a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association; or

(b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;

(c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or

(d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) or (ii).

Disclosure of personal interests

9. —(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (7), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you attend a meeting of your authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes

apparent.

(2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 8(1)(a)(i) or 8(1)(a)(ii)(aa), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.

(3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the authority of the type mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a)(viii), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.

(4) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.

(5) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in your authority's register of members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.

(6) Subject to paragraph 12(1)(b), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must ensure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

(7) In this paragraph, "executive decision" is to be construed in accordance with any regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000

Prejudicial interest generally

10. —(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

(2) You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the authority where that business—

(a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;

(b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or

(c) relates to the functions of your authority in respect of—

(i) housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;

(ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;

(iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;

(iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;

(v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and

(vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Prejudicial interests arising in relation to overview and scrutiny committees

11. You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of your authority (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where—

(a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by your authority's executive or another of your authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and

(b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the executive, committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

Effect of prejudicial interests on participation

12. —(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority—

(a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held—

(i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;

(ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless you have obtained a dispensation from your authority's standards committee;

(b) you must not exercise executive functions in relation to that business; and

(c) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee of your authority or of a sub-committee of such a committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Part 3

Registration of Members' Interests

Registration of members' interests

13. —(1) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of—

(a) this Code being adopted by or applied to your authority; or

(b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later),

register in your authority's register of members' interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a), by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

(2) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

Sensitive information

14. —(1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your authority's monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest, or, as the case may be, a change to that interest under paragraph 13.

(2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify your authority's monitoring officer asking that the information be included in your authority's register of members' interests.

(3) In this Code, "sensitive information" means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

TEN GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT IN PUBLIC LIFE

1. The Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001 set out ten principles derived from the Committee Standards in Public Life's recommended key principles of conduct in public life.
2. The Code of Conduct is required by the Local Government Act 2000 to be consistent with the general principles, but does not expressly incorporate them. The general principles do however underpin and steer the provisions in the Code of Conduct.
3. The ten general principles are:

Selflessness – members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

Honesty and integrity – members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

Objectivity – members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

Accountability – members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

Openness – members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

Personal judgement – members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

Respect for others – members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers and its other employees.

Duty to uphold the law – members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

Stewardship – members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

Leadership – members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 No.1159

THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Part 1

General provisions

Introduction and interpretation

1.—(1) This Code applies to **you** as a member of an authority.

(2) You should read this Code together with the general principles prescribed by the Secretary of State (see Annexure to this Code).

(3) It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.

(4) In this Code—

“meeting” means any meeting of—

(a) the authority;

(b) any of the authority’s committees or sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees;

“member” includes a co-opted member and an appointed member.

(5) References to an authority’s monitoring officer and an authority’s standards committee shall be read, respectively, as references to the monitoring officer and the standards committee of the district council or unitary county council which has functions in relation to the parish council for which it is responsible under section 55(12) of the Local Government Act 2000.

Scope

2.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), you must comply with this Code whenever you—

(a) conduct the business of your authority (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or

(b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority,

and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), this Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity.

(3) In addition to having effect in relation to conduct in your official capacity, paragraphs 3(2)(c), 5 and 6(a) also have effect, at any other time, where that conduct constitutes a criminal offence for which you have been convicted.

(4) Conduct to which this Code applies (whether that is conduct in your official capacity or conduct mentioned in sub-paragraph (3)) includes a criminal offence for which you are convicted (including an offence you committed before the date you took office, but for which you are convicted after that date).

(5) Where you act as a representative of your authority—

(a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority’s code of conduct; or

(b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your authority’s code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

General obligations

- 3.—**(1) You must treat others with respect.
- (2) You must not—
- (a) do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 33 of the Equality Act 2006(a));
 - (b) bully any person;
 - (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be—
 - (i) a complainant,
 - (ii) a witness, or
 - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings, in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct; or
 - (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.
- 4.** You must not—
- (a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where—
 - (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - (ii) you are required by law to do so;
 - (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - (iv) the disclosure is—
 - (aa) reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - (bb) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or
 - (b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.
- 5.** You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.
- 6.** You—
- (a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and
 - (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority—
 - (i) act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements; and
 - (ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes).
 - (c) must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.
- 7.** Paragraph 7 does not apply to your authority.

(a) 2006 c.3.

Part 2

Interests

Personal interests

- 8.—(1) You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where either—
- (a) it relates to or is likely to affect—
 - (i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
 - (ii) any body—
 - (aa) exercising functions of a public nature;
 - (bb) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (cc) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union), of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
 - (iii) any employment or business carried on by you;
 - (iv) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;
 - (v) any person or body, other than a relevant authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;
 - (vi) any person or body who has a place of business or land in your authority's area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);
 - (vii) any contract for goods, services or works made between your authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);
 - (viii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25;
 - (ix) any land in your authority's area in which you have a beneficial interest;
 - (x) any land where the landlord is your authority and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;
 - (xi) any land in the authority's area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer; or
 - (b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of—
 - (i) (in the case of authorities with electoral divisions or wards) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision; or
 - (ii) (in all other cases) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of your authority's area.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), a relevant person is—
- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association; or
 - (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;

- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) or (ii).

Disclosure of personal interests

9.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you attend a meeting of your authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

(2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 8(1)(a)(i) or 8(1)(a)(ii)(aa), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.

(3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the authority of the type mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a)(viii), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.

(4) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.

(5) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in your authority's register of members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.

Prejudicial interest generally

10.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

(2) You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the authority where that business—

- (a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;
- (b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or
- (c) relates to the functions of your authority in respect of—
 - (i) this sub-paragraph does not apply to your authority;
 - (ii) this sub-paragraph does not apply to your authority;
 - (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
 - (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
 - (v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
 - (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

11. Paragraph 11 does not apply to your authority.

Effect of prejudicial interests on participation

12.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority—

(a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held—

(i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;

(ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless you have obtained a dispensation from your authority's standards committee; and

(b) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Part 3

Registration of Members' Interests

Registration of members' interests

13.—(1) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of—

(a) this Code being adopted by or applied to your authority; or

(b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later),

register in your authority's register of members' interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a), by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

(2) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

Sensitive information

14.—(1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your authority's monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest, or, as the case may be, a change to that interest under paragraph 13.

(2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify your authority's monitoring officer asking that the information be included in your authority's register of members' interests.

(3) In this Code, "sensitive information" means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

Annexure - The Ten General Principles

The general principles governing your conduct under the *Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001* are set out below:

Selflessness

1. Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

Honesty and Integrity

2. Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

Objectivity

3. Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

Accountability

4. Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

Openness

5. Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

Personal Judgement

6. Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

Respect for Others

7. Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees.

Duty to Uphold the Law

8. Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

Stewardship

9. Members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

Leadership

10. Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

the Standards Board for England Confidence in local democracy

The Revised Code of Conduct

Training presentation for local authorities

the Standards Board for England Confidence in local democracy

Introduction

- model Code of Conduct came into force on 3 May 2007
- available from the Standards Board for England's website www.standardsboard.gov.uk
- Code applies to all members and co-opted members of local authorities. Code does NOT apply to authorities as a whole or to officers or employees of authorities
- authorities have until 1 October 2007 to adopt the Code

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General obligations

- treating others with respect
- complying with equality and discrimination laws
- bullying and intimidation
- compromising the impartiality of officers of the authority

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General obligations continued...

- preventing access to information
- members using their position improperly
- using resources for proper purposes only
- considering advice provided and giving reasons

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Confidential information

Members must not disclose confidential information except where:

- they have the consent of the person authorised to give it
- they are required by law to do so
- the disclosure is reasonable and in the public interest and made in good faith and does not breach any reasonable requirements of the authority

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Disrepute and private capacity conduct

- the local government bill will reinstate pre-Collins position: the Code will once again apply to conduct in a private capacity
- the Code limits that to criminal conduct that has led to a conviction
- this includes an offence committed before taking office but which led to a conviction after taking office

Personal interests

A member has a personal interest where the matter:

- relates to an interest they must register
- affects the well-being or financial position of them, members of their family or their close associates, *more than it would affect the majority of people in the ward affected by the decision*
- if a member declares a personal interest they can remain in the meeting, speak and vote on the matter – unless the personal interest is also prejudicial

Exemption to the rule on declaring personal interests

An exemption to declaring a personal interest applies when the interest arises solely from a member's membership of or position of general control or management on:

- any other body to which they have been appointed or nominated by the authority
- any other body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g. another local authority)

Exemption to the rule on declaring personal interests continued...

- in these exceptional cases, provided the member does not have a prejudicial interest, they only need to declare their interest if they speak
- if the member does not want to speak to the meeting, they may still vote on the matter without making a declaration

Prejudicial interests

A personal interest is prejudicial if all of the following conditions are met:

- a member of the public who knows the relevant facts would reasonably think the personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest
- the matter does NOT fall within one of the exempt categories of decisions under paragraph 10(2)(c)

Prejudicial interests continued...

- the matter affects the member or a relevant person or body's financial affairs

and/or

- the matter relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration that affects the member, a relevant person or body

Prejudicial interests and paragraph 12(2)

- A member with a prejudicial interest may make representations, answer questions and give evidence before leaving the room, provided that members of the public are allowed to attend for the same purpose

Why the change?

- increases opportunity to express support or objections
- members have same rights as members of the public
- improves transparency

What can a member do/not do when they have a prejudicial interest?

What a member cannot do:

- exercise executive functions in relation to that business
- seek to improperly influence a decision about that business
- stay in the room when the business is being discussed (after speaking if they have been allowed to)

What can a member do/not do when they have a prejudicial interest?

What a member can do:

- make written representations in their private capacity
- use a professional representative to act on their behalf
- get another member to represent the views of their constituents

Parish Councils and para 12(2) – optional slide

- parish councils not covered by 12(2) if they adopt Model Code
- members will not be able to speak when they have a prejudicial interest
- parish councils can adopt the Standards Board's Model Code for parishes which includes 12(2)

Gifts and hospitality

- members must register gifts and hospitality worth £25 or over that they receive
- the source of the gift must be registered
- the gift and source must be registered within 28 days of receiving it
- members have a personal interest in a matter that is likely to affect the source of their gift
- after 3 years the obligation to disclose the interest at meetings ceases

Resources on the revised Code

- Standards Board guidance at www.standardsboard.gov.uk
- The Code of Conduct: Guide for members
- Pocket guide to the Code of Conduct
- Future guidance – keep checking the website
 - Training DVD
 - Case review volume 5 – Code Q&A
- Standards Board's Model Code for parish and town councils also available on the website

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Item 7

ITEM NO.

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29th JUNE 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Portfolio: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007)

1. SUMMARY

This report deals with the statutory requirements set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 for the production and publication of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 be recommended to Council for approval.

3. DETAIL

3.1 The Account and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Council to approve the Accounts of the Authority by no later than the 30th June, prior to their publication and the formal signing off by the District Auditor.

3.2 A copy of the Statement of Accounts is therefore attached for Council's consideration.

3.3 Following the Audit of the Statement of Accounts, which has to be completed by no later than 30th September 2007, the District Auditor will submit a formal report on the Audit. If there are any material changes to the Statement of Accounts it will also be necessary for Council to re-approve the document.

3.4 Once the Audit has been completed the District Auditor will issue an Audit Certificate, on receipt of that document it is responsibility of the Director of Resources to publish the Statement of Accounts. In order to comply with this requirement apart from producing copies of the Statement it will also be placed on the Council's website.

3.5 The Statement of Accounts has been referred to the Audit Committee who will be reviewing the document at their meeting on the 25th June. The minutes of that meeting together with their recommendations will be circulated to all Members of Council prior to this report being considered.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Paragraphs 4.5 and 4.7 detail the outturn financial position for the two principal revenue accounts that the Council maintains:

- General Fund
- Housing Revenue Account

4.2 Para. 4.8 details the impact on the Council's level of revenue reserves of the outturn position on the revenue accounts.

4.3 Para. 4.9 details the outturn financial position on the Council's capital programme for both Housing Revenue Account and General Fund, how the programme has been financed and recommended amendments to the overall capital programme control totals for 2007/2008.

4.4 Cabinet Members are kept advised of the likely outturn position with regard to their portfolios' revenue and capital budgets during the financial year by way of quarterly budgetary control reports to Cabinet.

4.5 GENERAL FUND

(a) 2006 / 2007 Initial Plans

The Council received a relatively good Revenue Support Grant settlement from the Government for 2006/2007, which represented a very substantial increase of £1,552,824 over the 2005/2006 settlement. The settlement took into account the Council's share of the £350million made available nationally to improve the statutory minimum concessionary fares scheme from half fare to free fare as well as a year on year increase of 5.4%.

Notwithstanding this relatively good settlement the Council faced some significant budget pressures for 2006/2007, including pay award and pension increases, job evaluation, the fall out of external grant funding, fuel price inflation and implementing the new minimum concessionary fares scheme.

However, the Council was still able to include significant service growth in key priority areas in the 2006/2007 Budget mainly in environmental services such as street cleansing and the extension of the Civic pride teams dealing with issues such as graffiti and chewing gum removal and fly tipping.

In overall terms, the Budget Framework for 2006/2007 showed another year of spending growth assisted by a relatively good RSG settlement, investment income generated from significant housing land sale capital receipts received by the Council and the reallocation of available resources to help achieve Council priorities.

The Council approved a budget requirement of £14,045,480 for 2006/2007, which represented a net increase of £1,634,000 or 13% on 2005/2006. The Budget assumed a use of balances of £500,000 from the Budget Support Fund.

Careful planning of the budget meant that the commitment made in the Medium Term Financial Plan to restrict the council tax increase to 3% was delivered in 2006/2007.

(b) 2006 / 2007 Actual Position

The quarterly reporting of each portfolio's spending performance and probable outturn position to Cabinet and Strategic Working Groups has ensured that effective budgetary control has been achieved during 2006/2007.

The financial outturn position on the General Fund has improved considerably throughout 2006/2007, primarily as a result of the following items: -

- The Council's annual benefits bill now exceeds £30,000,000 with the level of overpayments being relative small in percentage terms and well within acceptable government limits. Housing Benefit Subsidy is paid at the rate of 100% of eligible payments, when an overpayment is made the rate of subsidy drops to 40% potentially leaving the Council to meet the remaining costs. If subsequently the Council recovers all of the overpayment surplus sums are generated.

It has been the practice in the past to disregard the likely impact of recovered overpayments in the quarterly budget monitoring reports because of the difficulty in accurately assessing these amounts and only accounting for them at the year end when all relevant details are readily available.

For 2006/2007 the level of recovered overpayments was in excess of £250,000. Revised monitoring arrangements are being introduced from 2007/2008 onwards and future budget monitoring reports will take into account likely levels of recovered overpayments

- The authority received grant from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme [LAGBI]. This is the second of an initial three-year scheme designed to give local authorities an incentive to maximise local economic growth by allowing them to receive a proportion of increases in local business rate revenues to spend on their own priorities. The allocation for Sedgefield Borough in 2006/2007 was £410,000, and was not known until March, meaning that it has not featured in previous outturn projections. There will be a further payment due in 2007/2008, however due to the difficulty in making an accurate assessment a similar situation will arise. To date no specific use has been determined for the award and therefore it has been added to the Budget Support Fund.
- During the year the turnover of staff employed by the Council, which is normally expected to be in the region of 2.5% per annum, was running at a higher level than expected. As a consequence the impact of vacant posts and delays in filling posts resulted in significant cost savings on the salaries budget.
- Cabinet will consider the final budgetary control reports, for both revenue and capital in respect of 2006-2007, at their meeting on the 5th July 2007.

A summary of the outturn on the Council's General Fund is shown in the table below: -

<i>Portfolio</i>	<i>What we Spent 2006/2007</i>		
	<i>Revised Budget £000</i>	<i>Actual Spend £000</i>	<i>(Under-spend) Overspend £000</i>
Strategic Leadership	(894)	(933)	(39)
Healthy Borough			
- <i>Community Health</i>	160	153	(7)
- <i>Leisure & Culture</i>	3,926	3,929	3
Strong Communities			
- <i>Housing</i>	2,263	2,300	37
- <i>Safer Communities</i>	812	911	99
Prosperous Borough			
- <i>Learning & Employment</i>	446	427	(19)
- <i>Social Regeneration & Partnership</i>	2,327	2,022	(305)
Attractive Borough			
- <i>Environment</i>	5,246	5,066	(180)
- <i>Planning & Development</i>	470	325	(145)
Salary Savings	(260)	-	260
Other Savings	-	(435)	(435)
Contingency	49	-	(49)
Budget Requirement	14,545	13,765	(780)
(Use of) / Contribution to Balances	(500)	280	780
Budget Requirement	14,045	14,045	-

* The Strategic Leadership Portfolio shows a credit budget and actual spend as it includes internal recharges to frontline services in respect of support services and significant interest receivable in relation to the Council's short term investments.

** The above figures are shown on a non FRS 17 basis.

The budgets for 2006/2007 have been fully revised to take account of the full reallocation of corporate support services and asset charges fully recharged to service areas.

As a result of the favourable outturn position on the General Fund and the incorporated LABGI grant, the Council has been able to make a contribution of £280,000 to the Budget Support Fund as opposed to the budgeted use of balances of £500,000.

A detailed summary of the movements in the levels of all of the Council's Reserves is shown in paragraph 4.8.

Training and Employment Services

The initial budget prepared for 2006/2007 forecast that the Training Services account would make an operating loss of about £138,000 [excluding asset charges] by the 31st March 2007. As a consequence of higher contract income generated by the Job Centre plus and other contracts the overall loss for the year was only £13,457.

4.6 Revenue Provisions Into 2007/2008

In view of the Council's favourable outturn position provision has been made in the 2006/2007 Accounts to carry forward unused resources for specifically identified purposes amounting to £223,600 into the current year to meet specific needs identified within the Budget and Policy Framework. This action is in line with the Financial Regulations.

Details of the provisions made are as follows: -

	£
General Fund	
<i>Organisational Training & Development Initiatives</i>	20,800
<i>Youth Music Initiative</i>	1,500
<i>Aycliffe Town Centre – Legal Fees</i>	5,000
<i>Housing Needs Study – Non HRA element</i>	7,500
<i>Leisure – Early Years Initiatives</i>	9,790
<i>Durham Women's Refuge - Support</i>	5,000
<i>Domestic Violence Initiatives</i>	1,120
<i>Safeguarding Children Board – Training Initiatives</i>	12,000
<i>Local Development Framework - Appraisals</i>	14,650
<i>Community Economic Appraisals</i>	38,000
<i>Council Tax Charter Mark Initiatives</i>	30,000
<i>Housing Benefits Admin Improvement Initiatives</i>	35,740
<i>Horticultural Maintenance</i>	20,000
Housing Revenue Account	
<i>Housing Needs Study</i>	2,500
<i>Refurbishment works at Grayson Grange [Carelink]</i>	20,000
Total Revenue Provisions	223,600

During 2006/2007 an offer was made to those employees who had lodged an equal pay claim against the Council in full and final settlement. The offer was subsequently rejected and following consultation with the employees unions further equal pay claims have been submitted. A provision of £773,000 has been made in line with the initial offer, all of which would fall against the Housing Revenue Account and this is being met from HRA balances.

In addition the Council has received grant funding in respect of specific initiatives that was unspent at the 31st March 2007 amounting to £605,460. The budget framework already assumes that some of this grant funding will be utilised in 2007/2008, however if the specific programmes do not need all of the funds in the current financial year unspent resources will be rolled forward into later years to meet specific requirements of the relevant initiatives.

	£000
General Fund	
<i>LPSA – Cost Efficiency Grant</i>	157,790
<i>DEFRA- Waste Management & Efficiency Grant</i>	35,980
<i>D o H – Smoke free Legislation</i>	8,590
<i>Planning Delivery Grant</i>	190,890
<i>Local Enterprise Growth Initiative</i>	112,210
<i>D o H – Communities for Health</i>	100,000
Total Grant Provisions	605,460

4.7 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

(a) 2006/2007 Initial Plans

The structure of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) has changed significantly in recent years with the introduction of the Supporting People Grant for Carelink services, rent restructuring and the transfer of rent rebates to the General Fund. In addition the subsidy settlement has undergone major methodology changes particularly with respect to how certain allowances are calculated.

In terms of spending in 2006/2007, the Council's management and maintenance allowances again increased well above inflationary levels. The management allowance was increased by 9.7% and the maintenance allowance showed an increase of 6.4%.

The extra spending capacity from increased allowances allowed some growth to be included in the 2006/2007 Budget, particularly in terms of repairs and maintenance and disabled persons adaptations to the housing stock. This was achieved without the need to draw on reserves, which stand at a relatively healthy level.

However, significant changes were made to the rent-restructuring model for 2006/2007 that led to substantial rent increases for most tenants. This will continue over the next few years so that full convergence with housing association rents can be achieved by 2012.

Therefore whilst the 2006/2007 subsidy proposals allowed for increased investment in maintaining and managing the housing stock it was at the cost of above inflation rent increases for many tenants.

Overall the HRA remained in a negative subsidy position and indeed this worsened under the new proposals. In 2005/2006, £1.9m was paid over to the Government and this increased to £2.7m in 2006/2007. So in effect £800,000 of the additional rent increase raised during the year was transferred to the Government to assist with social housing in other parts of the country.

(b) 2006/2007 Actual Position

The approved budget for 2006/2007 assumed that the HRA would break even with no requirement for contribution to or from Balances.

However, following Cabinet Approval the budget was adjusted during the year to assume a use of HRA Balances of £400,000 - £300,000 to ease spending pressures and backlog of works in respect of Disabled Persons Adaptations within the Repairs

and Maintenance Budget and £100,000 towards the first year costs of the HRA Service Improvement Plan. In addition to a budgeted provision of £500,000 to help finance the 2006/07 capital programme

The financial outturn position on the HRA shows a use of HRA Balances of £1,264,610. Details of which are shown in the following table: -

	<i>What We Spent 2006/2007</i>		
	<i>Planned £000</i>	<i>Actual £000</i>	<i>(Under- spend) Overspend £000</i>
Income			
<i>House Rents Net of Voids and Bad Debts</i>	21,567	21,731	(164)
<i>Other Rents</i>	882	856	26
<i>Government Subsidies</i>	85	85	-
<i>Other Grants, Contributions and Charges</i>	4,580	4,652	(72)
<i>Investment Income</i>	106	106	-
Total Income	27,220	27,430	(210)
Expenditure			
<i>Management Costs</i>	10,489	10,120	(369)
<i>Maintenance Costs</i>	6,653	6,985	332
<i>Equal Pay Provision</i>	-	773	773
<i>Capital Financing</i>	6,053	6,163	110
<i>Revenue Contribution to Capital #</i>	2,055	1,699	(356)
<i>Negative Subsidy Payable</i>	2,730	2,820	90
<i>Statutory Contributions to General Fund</i>	140	134	(6)
Total Expenditure	28,120	28,694	574
Contribution from HRA Balances	900	1,264	364

Includes £500,000 support to the HRA capital programme from HRA balances

The main reasons for the increased use of HRA balances are detailed below: -

- A revenue provision has been set aside to meet part of the equal pay claims that the Council recognises will at some time in the future be paid in respect of staff chargeable against the HRA, amounting to £773,000.
- The Council has benefited from the higher than estimated rental income as a result of a downturn in the level of RTB sales and reduced levels of rent loss through voids, which are currently running at historically low levels.
- The net overspend on management and maintenance relates in the main to the increased works budget in respect of disabled persons adaptations and the higher than anticipated use of agency staff used.
- The under spend on the revenue support to the capital programme is being carried forward to meet capital programme slippage.

4.8 RESERVES

The following statement sets out the actual position in respect of the level of reserves and balances available to the Council as at the 31st March 2007, which includes the LAGBI funds of £410,000. The overall level of resources available to the Council has fallen by £1.422m compared to the balances as at 31st March 2006. This is mainly attributable to the transfer of HRA resources to meet the potential cost of the equal pay claims outlined earlier in this report and the use of HRA resources to fund the new initiatives approved by Cabinet as detailed in Paragraph 4.7[b] above. The use of General Fund reserves is broadly in line with the expectations used when the 2006/2007 budgets were approved in February 2006.

		<i>Balances at</i>	
		<i>31/3/2006</i>	<i>31/3/2007</i>
		<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>
General Fund			
Earmarked Reserves			
	<i>Budget Support Fund</i>	1,721	2,002
	<i>Insurance Fund</i>	1,237	1,231
	<i>Economic Development Fund</i>	183	103
	<i>Asset Management Fund</i>	502	402
	<i>Private Sector Housing Fund</i>	203	203
	<i>Training Services Fund</i>	458	445
	<i>Youth Development Fund</i>	109	64
	<i>MRP (Debt Repayment) Fund</i>	456	256
	<i>Building Control Fund</i>	21	14
	<i>Other Earmarked Funds</i>	51	65
		4,941	4,785
Non-Earmarked Reserves			
	<i>General Reserves</i>	2,240	2,240
Housing Revenue Account			
	<i>HRA Working Balance</i>	4,647	3,382
	Total Reserves	11,828	10,407

The purposes for which the main reserves are held are detailed below: -

Budget Support Fund

This was set up to provide support to the General Fund to allow spending levels to be adjusted over the medium term. The Medium Term Financial Plan 2006-2009 [MTFP] anticipates that £1.5m of this fund will be used over the next three years. The balance shown currently includes the two LABGI awards

Insurance Fund

Established to cover the Council's self-insured risks. Whilst the revised balance will fall as claims continue to be met, the current level of funding is regarded as satisfactory in the medium term.

Economic Development Fund

Set up to provide incentives to industry. Whilst the Fund has lasted much longer than initially anticipated, there are ongoing commitments and it is expected that as a consequence of no external grant funding being available to support the incentives programme the fund has a very limited future life.

Training and Employment Services

This Fund is used to support the Council's training schemes, which have provided training opportunities to thousands of people over many years.

Asset Management Fund

This fund is available to provide support to meet the Council's commitments under the Asset Management Plan. The MTFP anticipates that £0.3m of this fund will be used over the next three years.

Private Sector Housing Fund

Established some years ago, when Housing Association loans were repaid, to provide support to private sector housing regeneration initiatives. The MTFP anticipates that £0.1m of this fund will be used over the next three years.

Youth Development Fund

This Fund is used to support projects aimed at developing the skills and talents of young people in Sedgefield Borough. This will provide significant additional funds to support 'KoolKash' initiatives and is in line with the outcome from the review of Children and Young People.

Other Earmarked Funds

This covers a range of small balances, and funds that are used for technical accounting purposes.

General Reserve

The balance on this reserve represents around 16% of net revenue spending, which is well above the minimum level advised by the Audit Commission of 5%. However, the Council has always held a significant reserve reflecting its tradition of being an active Council, prepared to respond to new initiatives and it considers the level of balances to be adequate and appropriate for this authority and a balance of £2m is regarded as a target to be maintained in the medium term.

Housing Revenue Account

Balances have been built up over the last few years primarily as a result of buoyant capital receipts being generated, which have been used to finance capital expenditure rather than using revenue resources that are under pressure from the need to repay subsidy. The MTFP anticipates that £1.5m will be used over the next three years to support the capital programme so that the Council achieves its decent homes target.

Collection Fund

The Council, as billing authority, maintains the Collection Fund accounts in respect of all the precepting authorities within Sedgefield Borough. Surpluses and / or losses on the Fund have to be used to support future Council Tax bills.

During December 2006 the Council is required to estimate the likely surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund and advise the Principal Precepting Authorities of their share that has to be paid out during 2007/2008, that surplus was estimated at £648,500. As at the 31st March 2007 there was an accumulated surplus on the Fund of only £595,000. Whilst a higher level of funds has been distributed than is currently being held the shortfall will be collected during 2007/2008.

Sedgefield Borough Council utilised £150,000 of the assumed surplus to set its own level of Council Tax in 2007/2008 whilst the actual share of the Collection fund balance at 31st March 2007 was £137,500.

4.9 CAPITAL INVESTMENT & FINANCE

(a) Capital Investment in Sedgefield Borough 2006/07

In preparing the Council's Capital Budgets for 2006/2007, account had to be taken of the resources available to the Council in the form of Government grants and allocations such as the Major Repairs Allowance, Supported Borrowing Approvals and the Council's own capital resources such as usable capital receipts, revenue contributions and accumulated reserves.

The approved net spending target for 2006/2007 was subsequently set at £15.65m with £4.4m set aside for General Fund Services, £7.8m for Council Housing Services and £3.45m for Major Regeneration Initiatives to be funded from Housing Land Capital Receipts.

The spending targets were revised during the year to reflect outstanding commitments carried forward from 2005/2006. Following these amendments, the revised net spending approval was set at £17.747m, with £7.800m set aside for Council Housing Services, £5.979m for General Fund Services and £3.968m for Major Regeneration Initiatives.

Taking into account additional external funding secured during the year, the total gross spending target was £20.742m with £8.674m for General Fund, £7.800m for Council Housing and £4.268m for Major Regeneration Initiatives.

The figures in the tables below detail the actual gross and net capital expenditure in 2006/07 in respect of the General Fund, Council Housing and Major Regeneration Programmes. The net spend shown is after the deduction of any external capital grants and contributions received during the year and therefore represents the expenditure to be financed from the Council's own resources and Government allocations built into the base budget such as the Major Repairs Allowance and Supported Borrowing Allocations.

(b) General Fund Services

The final outturn position on the 2006/2007 General Fund Capital Programme (including the Major Regeneration Programme) can be summarised as follows: -

Portfolio	Net Capital Programme Budget £000	Gross Capital Programme Budget £000	Actual Gross Spend* £000	Less Capital Grants and Contributions £000	Actual Net Spend To Finance £000
Strategic Leadership					
ICT and E-Government	900	1,738	764	(81)	683
Green Lane	240	240	245	-	245
Chilton Depot	90	106	100	-	100
Healthy Borough					
Community Health	25	697	721	(615)	106
Leisure and Culture	600	1,103	1,317	(244)	1,073
Prosperous Borough					
Social Regeneration	300	1,433	923	(484)	439
Learning and Employment	300	1,136	763	(239)	524
Major Regeneration	3,450	4,268	313	-	313
Attractive Borough					
Environment	70	106	47	-	47
Strong Communities					
Housing (Private Sector)	1,800	1,918	2,736	(1,663)	1073
Safer Communities	75	197	180	(24)	156
TOTAL	7,850	12,942	8,109	(3,350)	4,759

* Net of de minimus spend transferred to revenue

The variances from the approved programme can be attributed to a number of reasons:

- Where capital schemes are funded through external agencies, such as the Single Capital pot these resources must be spent first as in most instances if the resources are not defrayed within the year they have to be repaid.
- Delays in the implementation of the Major Regeneration Initiatives Programme pending the recruitment of the implementation team and the complexities of getting the various initiatives started. Whilst little spend was incurred in 2006/2007 significant on-going commitments have been created.
- Delays in the commencement or completion of a number of schemes on the Regeneration and Economic Development Capital Programme mainly in respect of Spennymoor Town Centre, Neighbourhood Renewal and Aycliffe Industrial Park.

A number of ICT capital projects were delayed or did not go ahead as planned during the year.

Whilst Leisure & Culture has not spent all of its allocation the level of on-going commitments exceeds the overall underspend. This is partly as a result of increased costs on some of the projects and additional approved schemes being brought into the programme in advance of the 2007/2008 programmes.

The Private Sector overspend of £818,000 relates to that part of the Programme that is being funded through the Major Regeneration Initiative.

The Council has again been successful in securing additional grants and contributions from external sources to support its capital investment. The amounts to be financed from the Council's own resources were therefore lower than anticipated.

c) Housing Services

The Housing Investment Programme (H.I.P.) provides, in the main, for the revitalization of the Council's dwellings and associated land and infrastructure. The significant areas of the Programme in 2006/2007 were all designed to help the Council achieve the Government's Decent Homes standard, including:

- *Continuation of Kitchen and Bathroom Improvement Programme where the tenant has significant choice in the new facilities installed in their homes.*
- *Continuation of a programme to renewing inefficient central heating systems and the provision of cavity wall insulation in all Council dwellings.*
- *Continuation of a programme to renew roofing on all Council dwellings along with the continuation of a programme of structural repairs and the replacement of dilapidated external components on Council dwellings*
- *Other works, including the works to sheltered housing schemes, fencing and landscaping works and works to Council owned shops.*

The outturn position on the 2006/2007 Council Housing Capital Programme can be summarised as follows:

Scheme	Capital Programme Budget £000	Net Spend To Finance £000*
Council Dwellings		
<i>Tenant Led Improvements</i>	-	227
<i>Kitchen Units</i>	582	221
<i>Kitchen and Bathroom Improvements</i>	2,000	2,489
<i>Bathroom Replacements</i>	440	386
<i>Structural Repairs</i>	264	254
<i>External Fabric Replacement</i>	-	55
<i>Central Heating / Cavity Wall Insulation</i>	3,150	2,576
<i>P.V.C.U. Doors / External Joinery</i>	-	127
<i>Re-roofing Works</i>	416	739
<i>Other Council Housing Works</i>	298	116
Other Works		
<i>Disabled Persons Adaptations</i>	80	53
<i>Infrastructure Works</i>	160	54
<i>Council Shops</i>	20	20
<i>Sheltered Housing</i>	380	-
<i>Other Land and Buildings</i>	10	28
Total	7,800	7,345

* Net of deminimus spend transferred to revenue

Overall the Council spent £15.454m gross on the 2006/2007 Capital Programme against a gross spending target of £20.742m. The financing of the capital programme outturn is detailed in the section below.

(d) Capital Financing in 2006/07

The following table sets out how the 2006/07 Capital Programme was financed: -

	£000
Expenditure to Finance	
General Fund	8,109
HRA	7,345
Financed By	
Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)	5,043
Capital Receipts	5,015
Capital Grants	2,615
Capital Contributions	768
Direct Revenue Financing	1,800
Supported Capital Expenditure	213
	15,454

(e) Capital Programme – Carry Forward to 2007/2008

The following table highlights the outstanding commitments on each portfolio's capital programme, which will need to be carried forward into 2007/2008 to meet on-going expenditure plans.

These allocations are in addition to the already approved 2007/2008 capital programme and the 2007/2008 control totals will need to be adjusted accordingly: -

Portfolio / Capital Programme	(Slippage & Savings) / Overspend 2006/07 £000	Commitments/ Carry Forward To 2007/2008 £000
Strategic Leadership		
ICT and E-Government	(852)	829
Green Lane	5	-
Chilton Depot	(6)	6
Healthy Borough		
Community Health #	(7)	14
Culture and Recreation	3	164
Prosperous Borough		
Social Regeneration	(324)	388
Learning and Employment	(203)	162
Major Regeneration	(2,435)	1,981
Attractive Borough		
Environment	(23)	18
Strong Communities		
Housing (Private Sector)	(83)	83
Council Housing (HRA)	(343)	343
Safer Communities #	38	31
TOTAL	4,230	4,019

These carried forward commitments are being financed from Capital contributions

Social Regeneration spend includes an additional £77,000 relating to underground cabling works at Dean Bank, Ferryhill which had not been paid in 2005/2006 and for which there was no carry forward commitment created in the current year.

Culture and Recreation overspend includes approx £50,000 for work on Locomotion at Shildon which relates to the Council's share of the increased costs on the original building contract. It also includes £67,000 in relation to essential DDA works at all four leisure centres that cost more than anticipated. Spend of £27,000 has been incurred in relation to Locomotion car park which will be funded from a Single Programme grant due in 2007/08. The carry forward figure represents contractual commitments relating to 2006/07 capital works.

(f) Usable Capital Receipts

As a consequence of slippage and other savings on the 2006-2007 Capital Programme and the Capital Receipts generated during the year, the Council has Usable Capital Receipts available to finance future capital works, amounting to £15.196m as at 31st March 2007. In accordance with decisions taken by Council in July 2004, £13.642m of these Capital Receipts is being earmarked specifically for major regeneration and affordable housing schemes.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no further resource implications arising from this report.

6. CONSULTATIONS

Comprehensive consultation has previously been held during the construction of the 2007/2008 Budget Framework. This report does not contain any proposals or recommendations requiring further consultation.

7. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 *Links to Corporate Objectives/Values*

The Council's Corporate Objectives and Values have guided the preparation of the 2006/07 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. Particular emphasis has been placed on the following Corporate Values: -

- *Be responsible with and accountable for public finances.*
- *Consult with service users, customers and partners.*

7.2 *Risk Management*

There have been no further risks identified other than those highlighted in the report to Council on the 24th February 2006.

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 for 2006/2007 was prepared in accordance with the Council's Constitution. No other legal or constitutional implications have been identified.

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

Consultation and engagement with Overview and Scrutiny Committees has previously been held in development and review of the 2006/2007 Budget Framework.

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

Ward: Not Ward specific
Key Decision: Validation

Background Papers:

- ~ Report to Special Council 24th February 2006 – Budget Framework 2006/2007.
- ~ Report to Council 30th June 2006- Statement of Accounts 2005-2006
- ~ Reports to Cabinet 14th September 2006- Revenue & Capital Budgetary Control Report – Position at 31st July 2006
- ~ Reports to Cabinet 16th November 2006- Revenue & Capital Budgetary Control Report – Position at 30th September 2006
- ~ Reports to Cabinet 2nd March 2007- Revenue & Capital Budgetary Control Report – Position at 31st December 2006

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Management Team has approved the report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Item 8

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

All Portfolios

CORPORATE PLAN 2007-2010

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the development and communication process for the Corporate Plan for the period 2007-2010. It sets out how the Plan was prepared, the key quality of life and performance issues identified, proposed changes to the Council's aims, objectives and priorities and activity planned in pursuit of these objectives. It sets out how the Corporate Plan will be communicated to stakeholders and local communities.
- 1.2 The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan is attached at Appendix 1. Five Delivery Plans support the Plan, one for each of the Council's four ambitions and another for values and governance. These supporting delivery plans will be monitored by Strategic Working Groups and will be made available on the Council's website.
- 1.3 A Medium-Term Financial Plan and an Organisational Development Plan support the Corporate Plan. The current Medium-Term Financial Plan will be revised following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 and will be informed by the aims, objectives and priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council...

- 2.1 Adopts the Corporate Plan 2007-2010.

3 CORPORATE PLAN 2007-2010

Background

- 3.1 The Council's approved Corporate Planning Framework commits it to the development of a three-year Corporate Plan, refreshed annually, and approved by Full Council. The Corporate Plan quantifies the Council's contribution to the shared vision for the Borough set out in the Community Strategy 2004-2014 by setting out its ambitions and priorities for the mid-term at a strategic, tactical and operational level. It also outlines how the Council will meet national performance targets and how it will continue to progress towards organisational excellence.

- 3.2 Through freedoms and flexibilities allocated to Councils rated 'Good' or 'Excellent' through Comprehensive Performance Assessment, the Corporate Plan effectively serves as the Council's Best Value Performance Plan. Accordingly, it must be published by 30 June annually.
- 3.3 The Corporate Plan is supported by five delivery plans, one for each of the Council's ambitions (Healthy, Prosperous, Attractive and Strong Communities) and another for its values. Each Delivery Plan provides a detailed assessment of progress against aims, objectives and targets, explains any change and sets out the key activity the Council will undertake during the next three years to improve performance. These supporting delivery plans are monitored by the Council's Strategic Working Groups.
- 3.4 Detailed information on service facilitation and delivery is set out in an array of supporting strategies and plans, including a suite of three-year Service Plans, which are owned and monitored at the service, directorate and portfolio level.
- 3.5 A Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is developed in parallel to Corporate Plan and defines the resources available to deliver priorities and how they will be deployed. The current MTFP will be revised following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07) and will be informed by the aims, objectives and priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. An Organisational Development Plan (ODP) complements and enhances the financial resources identified within the MTFP by ensuring that the Council has...*"the right people, in the right place, with the right skills at the right time"*.

Development process

- 3.6 In line with the approach used in previous years, a series of workshop sessions were held during April and May with Management Team, Heads of Service and senior managers from across the Council to...
- Consider quality of life statistics and community views
 - Review performance in 2006/2007 against targets
 - Review progress against key actions outlined in the 2006/2007 iteration of the Corporate Plan and identify the Council's key achievements
 - Review the Council's aims, objectives, priorities and targets in light of this information
 - Identify key activity for the period 2007-2010 to improve performance
- 3.7 The material gathered builds on the budget/service development process that began in November 2006 and has formed the basis of the proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan, which follows essentially the same structure as previous plans...
- Review of 2006/2007
 - Identification of future aims, objectives, priorities and targets
 - Actions for 2007-2010
- 3.8 The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan was been signed off by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting of 21 June 2007.

- 3.9 The approved 2007-2010 Corporate Plan will provide direction for the development of the MTFP and for service plans post-CSR07.

Key quality of life issues

- 3.10 The LSP Data Management Group reports that key quality of life issues for the Borough remain as follows...

- Poor health (highest priority)
- Low incomes, social inclusion
- Low value jobs, employability issues
- Competitiveness of town centres
- Housing Market Renewal
- Anti-social behaviour, community cohesion

- 3.11 The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan sets out findings from the recent Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys on subjective views on local quality of life provided by local residents. Local people consider the following to be most in need of improvement in Sedgefield Borough.

1. Activities for teenagers 54.2% (2003 Rank = 3, up 15%)
2. Shopping facilities 52.1% (2003 Rank = 1)
3. Level of crime 41.7% (2003 Rank = 2)
4. Job prospects 28.7% (2003 Rank = 5)
5. Clean streets 28.2% (2003 Rank = 4)

- 3.12 The Council has balanced this information along with consideration of national and regional policies, the long-term vision of the Community Strategy and the plans of partners and partnerships in developing the forward programme set out in the proposed Corporate Plan.

Performance in 2006/2007

- 3.13 The proposed Corporate Plan contains a comprehensive analysis of performance in the last year. The key points are as follows...

- Actual performance is improving in the round, with a majority of indicators on or exceeding target
- Performance targets need to be justified in light of current performance, improvement activity and the level of investment
- The Council has achieved 86% of the activity set out in the 2006/2007 Corporate Plan
- The Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys have seen the Council perform at top quartile for satisfaction with the majority of services and for overall satisfaction with the way the authority runs things
- Complaints were down by 35% on 2005/2006
- National efficiency targets are being exceeded

Proposed changes to aims, objectives and priorities

- 3.14 The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan sets out minor changes to the Council's aims, objectives and priorities, in the light of the future role(s) of local government and consideration of the local evidence-base. These are as follows...

Healthy Borough

Aim: Improved public health

Objectives: Safeguard the local environment
Support young people and their families
Work with partners to reduce health inequalities (Priority)
Develop leisure opportunities for local people

Aim: Increased independent living

Objectives: Jointly commission with partners range of services to promote independent living for vulnerable groups (Priority)

Prosperous Borough

Aim: Improved business and employment opportunities

Objectives: Promote the right conditions for economic growth
Enhance the vitality of town centres (Priority)
Improve the employability of local people (Priority)
Improve rates of new business formation in deprived areas
Increase the value of tourism to the local economy

Aim: Increased skills levels of local people

Objectives: Increase the number of local residents qualified to NVQ Level 2 and to Level 4

Aim: Reduced social exclusion

Objectives: Ensure prompt access to benefits
Work with partners to narrow the gap in quality of life experienced by the most disadvantaged groups in the Borough (Priority)

Attractive Borough

Aim: A cleaner, greener, sustainable environment

Objectives: Sustain the cleanliness of the local environment
Improve the quality of open and green space in the Borough
Reduce waste and increase recycling rates (Priority)
Promote sustainability across the Borough (Priority)

Aim: Improved design and environmental quality of towns and villages

Objectives: Secure effective planning policy and delivery
Improve the design and environmental quality of local settlements

Aim: Increased involvement in cultural activities
Objectives: Develop the cultural agenda within the Borough

Strong Communities

Aim: Quality, affordable and sustainable housing
Objectives: Achieve excellence in the delivery of Council Housing Services (Priority)
Work with partners to identify and address housing needs
Work with partners to regenerate older private sector housing (Priority)

Aim: Safer neighbourhoods
Objectives: Work with partners to reduce crime and the fear of crime
Work with partners to reduce anti-social behaviour (Priority)

Aim: Increased democracy and inclusion
Objectives: Encourage greater participation in local democracy
Support the development of cohesive communities (Priority)

Activity programme

- 3.15 The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan outlines headline activity planned to deliver on the above aims and objectives, linked to a revised set of key performance indicators. Further information on planned activity is set out in the supporting delivery plans.

Communicating the Corporate Plan

- 3.16 Once approved by Full Council, the Corporate Plan and its supporting delivery plans will be made available on the Council's website and its intranet.
- 3.17 Hard copies of the Corporate Plan will be distributed to all members, Management Team and Heads of Service, key partners, the Audit Commission and Government Office for the North East.
- 3.18 Each Head of Service will be briefed on the content of the revised Corporate Plan and any resulting changes required at a service planning level.
- 3.19 To communicate key information to local people, as in previous years the Council will prepare an Annual Report in Plain English, summarising key achievements in the last year and outlining future plans. The Annual Report will also provide a summary of the Annual Accounts Statement.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Costs will be incurred in printing the required number of copies of the Corporate Plan. Such costs can be met from approved budgets.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan has been prepared following detailed consultations with Management Team, Heads of Service and senior managers throughout the Council via a series of workshops.
- 5.2 Following the May 2007 local elections, informal sessions have been held with the Council's Cabinet to present the proposed Corporate Plan, agree priorities and determine the steer on key issues.
- 5.3 A number of comprehensive surveys of local views, such as the recent Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys and the County Durham Local Area Agreement Safer and Stronger Communities Survey, have informed the Corporate Plan. This data has been backed up by focus group work e.g. through the Council Tax consultation process.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Legal and Constitutional implications

There are no new legal or constitutional implications.

6.2 Risk Management

The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan identifies key strategic risks to the achievement of the Council's aims and objectives and signposts the Council's approach to risk identification and action planning. As such it raises the profile of risk management within the Council and emphasises its importance to performance improvement. Strategic Working Groups will be engaged during 2007/2008 in assessing and planning for risks against aims and supporting objectives at a tactical/operational level, informing service plans.

6.3 Value for Money

The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan provides a strategic overview of how the Council will achieve value for money and its efficiency targets, referencing corporate efficiency statements and linking target setting to value for money objectives.

6.4 Sustainability

The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan identifies the promotion of sustainability across the Borough as a priority objective, and sets out key activity for engaging local communities and stakeholders in the sustainability agenda.

6.5 Information Technology

The Council's key customer-focused ICT projects are identified within the proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan's supporting delivery plans to emphasise the role played by ICT in business transformation leading to performance improvement and customer satisfaction.

6.6 Human Rights

The future actions set out in the proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan are fully compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

6.7 Equality and Diversity

The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan identifies the promotion of equality and diversity and community cohesion as key development areas for 2006/2007.

6.8 Social Inclusion

The proposed Corporate Plan identifies the reduction of social inclusion as a corporate aim, bringing together the benefits service with other workstreams on social welfare.

6.9 Neighbourhoods

'Increased democracy and inclusion' is introduced as a corporate aim from 2007/2008 and is supported by a coherent work programme to develop the involvement of local people in decision-making through working at an area and neighbourhood level, driven by the relaunch of the Council's community forums.

6.10 Children and Young People

'Supporting young people and families' is identified as an objective within the Council's Improved Public Health aim. The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan allows for the Council to play a key role in the development of the Local Children's Board for Sedgefield Borough.

6.11 Community Safety, Cohesion and RESPECT

The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan identifies community safety and cohesion as key issues for the Borough. The Council will publish Community Cohesion and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies for the Borough in 2007/2008.

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The proposed 2007-2010 Corporate Plan will be referred to Overview and Scrutiny in line with the Constitution.

7.2 The proposed Plan sets out proposals to improve the involvement of Overview and Scrutiny through the provision of quarterly, by-exception performance update reports in a format agreed with a focus group of Overview and Scrutiny members.

7.3 The proposed Plan sets out plans to combine Scrutiny and performance reviews of some services to provide more support to Scrutiny and to optimise service improvement. This proposal will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet and is linked to the Council's Making Change Happen programme.

Appendices

(1) Sedgefield Borough Council Corporate Plan 2007-2010

Contact Officer

Telephone

Email

Brian Allen

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ballen@sedgefield.gov.uk

Wards:

All

Examination by Statutory Officers

		YES	N/A
1	The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ITEM NO

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 June 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Portfolio: Planning and Development

Sedgefield Borough Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Options

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Core Strategy Development Plan Document will provide the strategic planning direction and policies for the Borough to 2021. Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 states that in order to take forward this document, the Borough Council must undertake early consultation and public participation with its community.
- 1.2 The publication of the Core Strategy Preferred Options follows the publication and consideration of responses to the Key Issues Paper (2005) and Alternative Options (2006). The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment. Following this round of consultation, the Borough Council will prepare its Submission Document for publication in 2008.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Cabinet commend the attached Core Strategy Preferred Options Report to Council. The document will require Council authorisation to be published.

3 THE CORE STRATEGY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS REPORT

- 3.1 Paragraphs 4.1 – 4.3 of Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, states that the key to the success of the new system is the early identification of all issues in the preparation of the Development Plan Document. Local authorities should “front-load” the preparation of Development Plan Documents by facilitating early involvement and securing input from its community. This is to ensure that there is full community involvement before significant decisions are taken.

- 3.2 The Core Strategy provides the spatial expression of the Borough's Community Strategy. The document provides the strategic direction within which planning decisions should be made. The overall aim of the document is to help provide balanced and sustainable communities. The form and content of the document has taken into account the Government's view that Core Strategies should be succinct documents and be no more than 30 pages.
- 3.3 To help facilitate this, there is a clear locational strategy that prioritises the re-use of contaminated land and Previously-Developed Land and Buildings before considering Greenfield releases, focuses development in the four main towns in the Borough whilst ensuring that some development takes place in the larger villages. Further policies have been developed to provide a positive approach to housing; the natural and built environment; energy; flood risk; transport; open and green space; biodiversity; employment; retail; and, tourism.
- 3.4 The document has been set out so that all relevant issues surrounding the policy theme are consistently assessed and appraised. The reader of the document can easily identify the following:
- the linkages to the over-arching Aims and Objectives;
 - the evidence base for the policy;
 - a summary of the previous consultation responses;
 - a summary of the Sustainability Appraisal findings;
 - a summary of the Appropriate Assessment screening;
 - our preferred Policy approach;
 - the reasons for this approach; and,
 - an implementation and monitoring approach.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.5 The document has been subject to a comprehensive appraisal process that meets the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC and the guidance contained in the ODPM document 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (2005). This process has been overseen by the Sustainability Appraisal Team within Forward Planning, and has drawn upon expertise from other sections of the Council. This has been an iterative process and has resulted in a number of significant changes to the strategic direction of the Core Strategy. This is to be welcomed as it makes the Core Strategy more sustainable and robust to scrutiny.
- 3.6 The Sustainability Appraisal has highlighted that there is an omission from the document in respect of Environmental Protection of air, water and land. Whilst this cannot be accommodated in the Preferred Option Report due to time constraints, we will give consultees the option to either support or reject this recommendation through this period of consultation. The responses to this question will be closely analysed and considered prior to the formulation of the Submission Document next year.

Appropriate Assessment

- 3.7 Appropriate Assessment is required for any proposed plan or project which may have a significant effect on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas

(SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and which is not required for the management of those sites. Schedule 1 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 transposes into English Law the requirement to carry out a screening process for Appropriate Assessment of Local Development Documents, such as the Core Strategy. Whilst Thrislington Special Area of Conservation is the only European site in the Borough, we have to consider the effect of the document upon sites within the potential zone of influence of the Core Strategy, such as Castle Eden Dene SAC.

- 3.8 The screening process has been carried out in partnership with experts from national and regional conservation bodies, as well as colleagues from adjacent authorities. The screening process has highlighted that there are two issues that will require mitigation or avoidance measures. These relate to the effect of locating wind turbines in proximity to areas of water where protected birds migrate to, and the deposition of pollutants and nutrients that will change the soil characteristics upon which the Thrislington grassland (and to a lesser extent Castle Eden Dene SAC) is based. Avoidance measures will include exclusion zones for wind turbines from open area of water to address the first theme and to address the second theme, there is a particular need to ensure that there are sufficient areas of open and green space for dog walkers in Bishop Middleham, Ferryhill Station and West Cornforth to eliminate the need to take their pets to the protected grassland for exercise.
- 3.9 Furthermore, any new house building in the Trimdons will have to ensure that their energy consumption does not increase air pollution as these settlement lies down wind of Castle Eden Dene SAC. In effect, this means that any new development must not burn coal as their primary source of heat. This issue will be primarily resolved through the development of the Major Allocations Development Plan Document.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Whilst there will not be any direct resource implications, apart from publication costs, there will indirect cost implications in terms of Officer time spent on this consultation exercise.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report will be subject to a period of six weeks public consultation. The consultation will be undertaken, in accordance with the consultation methods outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement and further details can be seen in the accompanying Statement of Consultation.
- 5.2 Following the consultation, the responses will be collated and analysed. The Submitted Core Strategy Document will be submitted for examination to the Secretary of State and published in 2008.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 [Links to Corporate Objectives / Values](#)

The publication of the document will help meet Corporate Aim 25, which is to provide a high quality, efficient and customer focussed Planning Service that supports sustainable improvement of the built and natural environment of the Borough.

6.2 Legal Implications

The document must be published in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

6.3 Risk Management

If the Core Strategy is not produced, the deliverability of sustainable communities across the Borough may be hindered and this could have a negative effect upon the implementation of the Borough's Community Strategy.

6.4 Health and Safety Implications

No additional implications have been identified.

6.5 Sustainability

The Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanies the Core Strategy Preferred Options.

6.6 Equality and Diversity

The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested, and will be placed on the website in pdf format.

Equality and diversity issues are discussed in the Core Strategy and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

6.7 Social Inclusion

Social inclusion issues are discussed with the Document.

6.8 Procurement

There are no procurement issues.

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

Core Strategy Preferred Options Report
Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal
Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment
Statement of Consultation

Contact Officers: Chris Myers
Telephone No: (01388) 816166 ext **4328**
Email Address: cmyers@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation: This is a Key Decision as a decision made by Cabinet in the course of developing proposals to Council to amend the **policy framework**.

Background Papers

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, 2005
Schedule 1 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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ITEM NO

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 June 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Portfolio: Planning and Development

Sedgefield Borough Local Development Framework – Major Allocations Alternative Options Report

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Major Allocations Development Plan Document will allocate new employment and housing sites across the Borough up to 2021. Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 states that in order to take forward this document, the Borough Council must undertake an early consultation exercise to identify the key issues that the document will seek to address and a series of possible options.
- 1.2 A draft Search Sequence and Detailed Assessment was also published in October 2006 which sought to develop a methodology which would help to determine which potential development sites are the most sustainable, viable and deliverable. Following an assessment of the responses received, the Alternative Options Report has been developed. This report considers the merits of each of the sites that have been submitted for consideration. The responses received to this round of consultation will feed into the Preferred Options Report that is due for publication in July 2008.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council endorses the attached Major Allocations Alternative Options Report, so that the document can be published.

3 THE MAJOR ALLOCATIONS ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS REPORT

- 3.1 Paragraphs 4.1 – 4.3 of Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, states that the key to the success of the new system is the early identification of all issues in the preparation of the Development Plan Document. Local authorities should “front-load” the preparation of Development Plan Documents by facilitating early

involvement and securing input from its community. This is to ensure that there is full community involvement before significant decisions are taken.

- 3.2 Continuing the pre-production work that the Borough Council has already undertaken by the Key Issues Paper and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and the Search Sequence and Detailed Assessment, we are providing an additional opportunity for consultees to influence the process as early as possible through the publication of this Alternative Options Report. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 states that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should consult and engage with specific consultation bodies to identify the emerging planning issues that should be considered in Development Plan Documents. This consultation will provide the opportunity for the community to consider the alternative options and identify which is their preferred option and help provide evidence for the LPA to ensure that Development Plan Documents are sound when they are submitted for examination.
- 3.3 The Major Allocations Alternative Options Report firstly considers future employment sites and then future housing sites. These sites have been put forward through a range of sources including the existing Local Plan, the Urban Capacity Study (2003), Coalfield Housing Market Renewal Strategy (2006) landowners and other interested parties.

Employment Land

- 3.4 As set out in the Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper, employment development will be prioritised at Green Land Industrial Estate, Spennymoor; Aycliffe Industrial Estate, Newton Aycliffe; and NetPark, Sedgefield. There will be a need to develop additional employment land in order to meet the requirements of the Regional Spatial Strategy. This will strengthen the Borough's employment land portfolio. Consultees will be asked to comment on which employment sites should be included within this portfolio.

Housing Land

- 3.5 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing, Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East and the Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper, future housing development should be directed to the most sustainable locations, using previously developed land where appropriate. The Borough Council has developed its Search Sequence, which prioritises development to the most sustainable locations first. Alternative housing sites that have put forward to the Borough Council for consideration have been placed in their particular Search Sequence category.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Links to Corporate Objectives / Values

The publication of the document will help meet Corporate Aim 25, which is to provide a high quality, efficient and customer focussed Planning Service that supports sustainable improvement of the built and natural environment of the Borough.

6.2 Legal Implications

The document must be published in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

6.3 Risk Management

If the Major Allocations Development Plan Document is not produced, the deliverability of sustainable economic and housing development across the Borough may be hindered and this could have a negative effect upon the successful regeneration of the Borough's economy.

6.4 Health and Safety Implications

No additional implications have been identified.

6.5 Sustainability

At this stage, there is no further requirement to undertake Sustainability Appraisal.

6.6 Equality and Diversity

The Major Allocations Alternative Options will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested, and will be placed on the website in pdf format.

6.7 Social Inclusion

Social inclusion issues are discussed with the Document.

6.8 Procurement

There are no procurement issues.

7 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None.

8 **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Major Allocations Alternative Options Report
Local Development Framework: Statement of Consultation

Contact Officers: Chris Myers
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Email Address: cmyers@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation: This is a Key Decision as a decision made by Cabinet in the course of developing proposals to Council to amend the **policy framework**.

Background Papers

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ITEM NO

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 June 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Portfolio: Planning and Development

Sedgefield Borough Local Development Framework – Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The need to provide Affordable Housing within the Borough is becoming more acute as there has been an increasing differential between house prices and household income over recent years. The Borough Council recognised this last year and brought together a Scrutiny Review Group to consider this subject. Cabinet considered the Review Group's findings earlier this year. One of the key recommendations is the production of an Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- 1.2 Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Borough Council can bring forward Supplementary Planning Documents in advance of the adoption of its Core Strategy provided that the document is linked to a "saved" policy in the Local Plan. In this case, the relevant policy is H19. The Draft Supplementary Planning Document has been successfully screened against the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment 2001/42/EC. Furthermore, the draft had undergone a comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal report.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Cabinet commend the attached Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document to Council. The document will require Council authorisation to be published.

3 THE DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

- 3.1 The housing market in the Borough has changed significantly over the last few years. There has been an increasing demand for housing in the Borough that has resulted in a considerable increase in house prices and a growing waiting list for social housing. There is a growing affordability gap between house prices and household incomes. Therefore, as a result of these issues, there is a growing need for the provision of

affordable housing in the Borough. This issue has been recognised through the Borough Council’s Corporate Plan and the Community Strategy, and taken forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 Review Group last year.

- 3.2 The development of this Supplementary Planning Document is explicitly tied to the delivery of the Local Development Framework’s Aims and Objectives. The following table identifies these linkages.

Local Development Framework Aim	Objective
AIM 1: To enhance social inclusion and well being	Providing for recognised housing needs in safe and attractive neighbourhoods
AIM 2: To improve the quality of where people live	Provide high quality, affordable housing for future generations

- 3.3 The document considers all aspects relating to the provision of affordable housing. This includes the methodology to assess whether affordable housing is required; the size, type, design and tenure of the dwellings; clarity over impact of known and unknown costs associated with development; Rural Exception sites; a monitoring and implementation framework; and a proposed financial calculation to allow off-site provision of affordable dwellings.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.4 Every Development Plan Document and Supplementary Planning Document must be screened against the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment 2001/42/EC. The Borough Council undertook an initial screening procedure to decide whether Strategic Environmental Assessment is required under the Directive. Given that the document is purely an issues based document that focuses on social and economic impacts of affordable housing, we did not believe that it is required. In accordance with the procedures, we consulted the three SEA bodies (Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage) to ascertain whether they agreed with our view that there will be no significant environmental effects associated with the implementation of this Supplementary Planning Document. English Heritage confirmed this in a letter dated 4 April 2007. The Document therefore is not subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.5 The Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document was been subject to a comprehensive and full Sustainability Appraisal. This has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant national guidance. The Sustainability Appraisal identifies that the introduction of the Supplementary Planning Document is likely to bring about significant social and economic benefits to the Borough. The Appraisal made 6 recommendations and these have been incorporated into the Supplementary Planning Document.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Whilst there will not be any direct resource implications, apart from publication costs, there will indirect cost implications in terms of Officer time spent on this consultation exercise.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Draft Supplementary Planning Document will be subject to a period of six weeks public consultation. The consultation will be undertaken, in accordance with the consultation methods outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement.
- 5.2 Following the consultation, the responses will be collated and analysed. The final Supplementary Planning Document will be prepared and brought forward for adoption.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Links to Corporate Objectives / Values

The publication of the document will help meet Corporate Aim 25, which is to provide a high quality, efficient and customer focussed Planning Service that supports sustainable improvement of the built and natural environment of the Borough.

The publication of the document will also meet one of the key priorities of the Borough Council's Housing Strategy 2006/7-2008/9.

6.1 Legal Implications

The document must be published in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

6.2 Risk Management

If the Supplementary Planning Document is not produced, the affordability of housing in the Borough will worsen and this could have a negative effect upon the successful regeneration of the Borough's economy.

6.3 Health and Safety Implications

No additional implications have been identified.

6.4 Sustainability

Sustainability Appraisal is covered in the main body of the report.

6.5 Equality and Diversity

The Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested, and will be placed on the website in pdf format.

6.6 Social Inclusion

Social inclusion issues are discussed with the Document.

6.7 Procurement

There are no procurement issues.

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document: Sustainability Appraisal

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Email Address: cmyers@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation: This is a Key Decision as a decision made by Cabinet in the course of developing proposals to Council to amend the **policy framework**.

Background Papers

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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ITEM NO

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 June 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Portfolio: Planning and Development

Sedgefield Borough Local Development Framework – Incorporating A Renewable Energy Obligation into Developments

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Borough's Local Development Framework is currently under preparation. The requirement to incorporate renewable energy measures within major planning applications conforms to the guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 22 and the emerging North East Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 1.2 The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report provides policy guidance as to how this will be addressed in a local context. The emerging Core Strategy policy needs to be supported by a best practice guidance note to Developers so that they can meet this policy theme. This report sets out the case for the best practice guide to support the Local Planning Authority to require that all new developments over 1000m² should incorporate an on-site renewable energy production capability.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet commend the attached Best Practice Guide to Council. The document will require Council authorisation to be published.
- 2.2 It is further recommended that Cabinet agree that the level of embedded renewable energy required for new developments and major refurbishments, be set to an initial 10% of the total requirement, rising by 1% annually.

3. INCORPORATING A RENEWABLE ENERGY OBLIGATION INTO DEVELOPMENTS

Background

- 3.1 Following the publication of Planning Policy Statement 22, the London Borough of Merton became the first local authority to formalise the Government's renewable energy

targets. Merton's policy insisted that all new major developments and refurbishments within the Borough should incorporate on-site renewable energy technology to generate at least 10% of their energy needs.

- 3.2 Since then, over 100 other local authorities have adopted similar policies (Appendix 1). The incorporation of a 10% renewable energy policy is embedded within both the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Framework (Appendix 2).
- 3.3 Reducing the impact of development on climate change is one of the key Aims of the Local Development Framework. The objective of promoting energy efficiency and the generation of energy from renewable sources support this Aim. The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report contains a policy theme on Energy that requires the delivery 10% of energy demand by 2010, increasing incrementally to 20% by 2020, by renewable means for new development. This policy position conforms to the emerging North East Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Policy Statement

- 3.3 The emerging Regional Spatial Strategy will adopt a 10% target, which is to be doubled by 2020. The Secretary of State is likely to adopt this document this financial year.
- 3.4 Therefore, in support of the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Framework, the Borough Council should adopt the following policy statement in relation to embedded renewable energy provision:

“Sedgefield Borough Council expects all development (either new build or conversion) with a floorspace in excess of 1,000m², or ten or more residential units to incorporate embedded energy from renewable sources, to provide at least 10% of the predicted energy requirements. This percentage should be increased annually by 1%.”

- 3.5 The production of renewable energy is not just 'environmental ideology' nor should it be seen as a 'token gesture'; it can offer a wide range of benefits. These benefits are listed below:

Benefits for the Environment

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions;
- Better adaptation to climate change.

Benefits for Developers

- Enhanced marketing value and public approval;
- Evidence of higher property values;
- Chance to be innovative.

Benefits for End User

- Lower running costs;
- Raised sustainability credentials;
- Innovative features;
- Improved well-being and a 'feel good' factor;
- Reduced reliance on fossil fuels;

- Providing a possible backup if fossil fuel supply fails;
- Possible income by selling any surplus energy through ROC's¹;
- Evidence of higher property values.

3.6 It will also show that the Borough Council have a visible commitment to sustainable development and mitigating the impacts of, and adapting to climate change and are prepared to 'lead by example'.

Economic Benefits

3.7 A recent study, led by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) found that 'green' buildings can earn higher rents and prices, attract tenants and buyers more quickly, cut tenant turnover, cost less to operate and maintain and bring a feeling of 'well being' to the occupiers². Many businesses investing in renewable energy have reaped the rewards of reduced overheads and increased profits³ whilst others have been financially exposed to the rises in energy prices experienced in the last two years.

3.8 In the short term, there will be an increase in the initial cost of developments but this will be passed to the end user. However, over the longer term this would be paid back through reduced energy costs. The level of the increased cost will ultimately depend on the technology installed. It is however worth remembering that for industrial developments, this cost could be recouped within 5-10 years because of the decrease in energy costs associated with an on-site source of heating and/or electricity. Furthermore, the use of renewable technologies could also create an extra income source for the end user, through 'Renewable Obligation Certificates' (ROC's)⁴. Current ROC's and electricity prices mean that generated electricity can be worth in excess of £100 per MWh, recouping initial capital costs in as little as three years⁵. The introduction of a policy supporting renewable energy would reduce the demand on the national grid, while securing a localised and reliable energy supply. This could be important in the future, when increased weather variability and diminishing fossil fuel resources could disrupt the energy supply network⁶.

3.9 By adopting the 10% policy, the Borough Council will contribute to the emerging renewable energy economy, worth £35m in 2003 and projected to be worth £750m in 2007/08⁷. This will in turn lead to a decrease in the unit price of such technologies, as has been seen with micro wind turbine manufacturers, 'Windsave' and 'Renewable Devices'⁸ and help to increase the number of installers and manufacturers within the region.

¹ ROC's – Renewable generators receive ROC's for each MWh of electricity generated. These certificates can then be sold to create an extra income.

² RICS, 2007: Transforming Existing Buildings: The Green Challenge

³ THE CARBON TRUST, 2005: Energy Saving Fact Sheet - Renewable Energy

⁴ ROC's – Renewable generators receive ROC's for each MWh of electricity generated. These certificates can then be sold to create an extra income.

⁵ TNEI, 2006: On-site generation

⁶ www.ukcip.org.uk

⁷ <http://themertonrule.org/the-merton-rule/renewable-energy-economy>

⁸ 'Swift' 2004 price £4500 – 'Swift' 2007 price £2000

Environmental Benefits

- 3.10 The increased use of renewable technologies will result in a reduction in the amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emitted and therefore a reduced contribution to climate change. It will also decrease dependence on finite fossil fuels.

Social Benefits

- 3.11 It is likely that the introduction of the policy will have most socially beneficial effect when developments are located in communities suffering from deprivation. The policy will immediately reduce instances of fuel poverty, through reduced running costs and improve the comfort and satisfaction of residents. It is also likely that the policy will help improve pride and community spirit⁹.

Public Opinion

- 3.12 Surveys have consistently shown that end users of buildings would prefer to have installed renewable technologies if given the choice¹⁰. It is disingenuous for developers to claim that there is no demand for renewable technologies when they have never actively promoted the idea. A DTI survey in 2003 found that over 90% of people questioned said they were in favour of renewable energy¹¹.

Image

- 3.13 Developer are already using the installation of renewable energy to enhance their corporate image, demonstrating the sustainability performance of their developments, which differentiate them from competitors. This has been used to attract a premium on house prices and rental streams.

Energy Supply

- 3.14 The issue of security of supply in relation to traditional resources was addressed in the Government's Energy White Paper in 2003 and updated in the 2007 Energy White Paper¹². The report highlights the need for a diverse mix of energy production with renewable energy an integral part of this mix.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is recognised that the adoption of the 10% policy could impact upon the value of land sales for the Borough Council. However, the cost of renewable technologies has been over emphasised by developers in the past. The true cost of meeting the 10% rule is only at about 0.6% to 6.2% of the total build cost (depending on the technologies chosen). Merton Borough Council, who pioneered the rule, along with a number of

⁹ Department of Communities and Local Government, 2006: Code for Sustainable Homes / Energy Centre for Sustainable Communities, 2006: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

¹⁰ www.themertonrule.org

¹¹ DTI – Attitudes and knowledge of Renewable Energy amongst the General Public www.dti.gov.uk/files/file15478.pdf

¹² www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/page39534.html

other London Council's indicate that as long as the additional build cost is kept between 3-5% this should be deemed as reasonable for the developer to meet¹³.

- 4.2 There may be an initial cost to the Authority in terms of assessing planning applications for the renewable energy requirement. Because this policy is new to both developers and SBC staff it may be pertinent to factor in some training for staff and/or consultant support time, to ensure the correct procedures and calculations are being followed.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The report and Best Practice Guide has been prepared in consultation with Officers from Planning and Technical Services, Strategy and Regeneration, and Resources.
- 5.2 The Best Practice Guide will be subject to a period of six weeks public consultation, alongside other Local Development Framework Documents. The consultation will be undertaken, in accordance with the consultation methods outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement and further details can be seen in the accompanying Statement of Consultation.
- 5.3 Following the consultation, the responses will be collated and analysed. The final version of the Best Practice Guide will then be brought to Cabinet and Council for formal adoption.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Links to Corporate Objectives / Values

The above recommendations adhere to the following ambitions and aims contained within the Council's Corporate Plan 2006/07 – 2008/09.

Corporate Ambition	Community Outcome	2006 Aim
Attractive Borough	Ensuring a cleaner greener environment	<i>Aim A1 – Monitor and improve local environmental conditions</i>
	Improving towns, villages and the countryside	<i>Aim A3 – provide a high quality, efficient customer focused planning service that supports sustainable improvement to the natural and built environment.</i>
	Reducing waste and managing natural resources	<i>Aim A6 - Raise awareness of sustainability issues within the Council and external organisations</i>

In relation to any planned developments in SBC ownership. The following Corporate Plan ambitions also apply.

¹³ www.themertonrule.org

Corporate Values	Be responsible with and accountable for public finances	<i>Aim C7 – Identify year-on-year efficiency gains from the conception, procurement, and delivery of goods, services and works</i>
		<i>Aim C9 - Provide effective Asset Management and maximise the useful life/return on investment for the Council's property portfolio.</i>
	Achieve continuous improvement and innovation in service delivery	<i>Aim C11 - Maximise the benefit of new technologies</i>

The publication of the document will also help meet Corporate Aim 25, which is to provide a high quality, efficient and customer focussed Planning Service that supports sustainable improvement of the built and natural environment of the Borough.

6.2 Legal Implications

The document must be published in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

6.3 Risk Management

If the Best Practice Guide does not support the Core Strategy Energy theme, the deliverability of sustainable communities across the Borough may be hindered and this could have a negative effect upon the implementation of the Borough's Community Strategy.

It was initially predicted by the London Borough of Merton that some developers would have some resistance to the policy, as it could increase the build costs of their development. These initial fears were not realised, as most developers were extremely enthusiastic about the policy as it was found that they could charge an additional premium for these products.

It was also suggested that because some neighbouring Authorities did not have such a policy 'Merton' would lose investment. This was again not realised, with developers continuing to invest heavily in the Borough. It was suggested by 'Merton' that depending upon the type of development, up to 5% additional build cost could be considered reasonable at 2005 national (fossil fuel based) energy costs¹⁴.

The main obstacle for developers was a lack of experience and expertise. However, this will, in part, be addressed by the accompanying Best Practice Guide.

6.4 Health and Safety Implications

No additional implications have been identified.

¹⁴ <http://themertonrule.org/the-merton-rule/viability-feasibility>

6.5 Sustainability

The good practices within the proposed policy contribute to the economic, environmental and social aspirations of the sustainable communities agenda. This is achieved through effective and efficient use of both financial and natural resources and the consequent reduction of CO₂ emissions.

All developers should also be encouraged to adhere to the energy hierarchy, to reduce the need for energy in the first instance, to use energy more efficiently and then to use renewable energy¹⁵.

6.6 Equality and Diversity

The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested, and will be placed on the website in pdf format.

Equality and diversity issues are discussed in the Core Strategy and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

6.7 Social Inclusion

Social inclusion issues are discussed with the Document.

6.8 Procurement

There are no procurement issues.

7 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None.

8 **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Case Studies

Appendix 2 – Policy Context

Appendix 3 – Best Practice Guide

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Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation: This is a Key Decision as a decision made by Cabinet in the course of developing proposals to Council to amend the **policy framework**.

¹⁵ LGA, 1999: Energy Services for Sustainable Communities The Local Government Position

Background Papers

Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
DTI (2003), Energy White Paper – creating a low carbon economy
DTI (2007), Energy White Paper – meeting the energy challenge
DEFRA, (2001) Climate Change - The UK Programme
Sedgefield Borough Council, Sustainable Energy and Water Policy 2007/2010
Merton Borough Council (2004), Unitary Development Plan

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Case studies

The London Borough of Merton

The 'Merton Rule' is the groundbreaking planning policy, pioneered by the London Borough of Merton. It requires the use of on-site renewable energy to reduce annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the built environment and states:

"The Council will expect all development (either new build or conversion) with a floor-space of 1000m² or ten or more residential units to incorporate renewable energy production equipment to provide at least 10% of the predicted energy requirements."

Kirkless Metropolitan Council

Proposals for major developments submitted before 2011 will need to include an energy efficiency statement and incorporate renewable energy generating capacity to provide at least 10% of the development's predicted energy needs; proposals submitted during 2011 to 2015 will need to incorporate 15% and proposals submitted after 2015, 20%.

Kirklees have developed a 30% renewable energy requirement on all new council buildings.

North Devon District Council

"The expectation will be that at least 15% of the predicted annual energy requirements of a particular development should be met by means of independent renewable energy generation. ...For the purposes of Policy ECN15 major development is defined as 1000 m sq (gross) or more of employment or retail floorspace or at least 50 dwellings."

Eastleigh Borough Council

Eastleigh BC are aiming to become carbon neutral within 5 years. As part of this ambitious aim, they are pledging to ensure that all new development on major sites will, by 2009, be carbon neutral and for all sites to be carbon neutral by 2012.

All new Borough Council development, for projects launched from this spring, will be carbon neutral.

Over 100 local authorities have adopted 'Merton' type policies. These include: Croydon, E. Devon, Hammersmith & Fulham, Isles of Scilly, Lancaster, Leicester, Luton, Merton, Milton Keynes, North Devon, Oldham, Richmond, Sefton, Southampton, Tandridge, Vale Royal, Wakefield, Waltham Forest, W. Devon.

Policy Context

Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy¹⁶

This 2003 Energy White Paper sets the government's objective to cut CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050 with real progress by 2020. It also includes a target to generate 10% of the UK's energy needs by renewable technologies by 2010 and 20% by 2020.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22 (paragraph 8)

This national planning guidance states that:

'Local planning authorities may include policies in local development documents that require a percentage of the energy to be used in new residential, commercial or industrial developments to come from on-site renewable energy developments.'

Regional Spatial Strategy Policy 40(c)

It will be a requirement of all local authorities covered by the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), that strategies, plans and programmes should:

*'...require new developments, particularly major retail, commercial and residential, to have embedded within them a minimum of 10% energy supply from renewable sources.'*¹⁷

Local Development Framework (LDF)

It is also a requirement within the emerging LDF Core Strategy that:

'...the Borough will expect all development (either new build or conversion) with a floorspace in excess of 1,000m², or ten or more residential units to incorporate embedded energy from renewable sources to provide at least 10% of the predicted energy requirements by 2010, and for this percentage to be doubled by 2020.'

2006 Pre-Budget Report

In the December 2006 Pre-Budget report, the Government also announced their ambition that all new homes should be built to zero carbon standards by 2016¹⁸.

Consultation on 2006 Building A Greener Future: Towards zero carbon development

Energy performance of new housing developments should be set to the following improvement levels

- 25% above 2006 building regulations by 2010 (Code level 3);
- 44% above 2006 building regulations by 2013 (Code level 4);
- Be zero carbon by 2016 (Code level 6).

The requirement will also be a key action within the forthcoming SBC Climate Change Strategy.

¹⁶ www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper

¹⁷ RSS policy 40 (c) – Due to be adopted August 2007

¹⁸ <http://prebudget2006.treasury.gov.uk/page07.html>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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