

# Item 3a

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Chamber,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Friday,  
28 September 2007

Time: 11.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. S. J. Iveson (Mayor) and

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, W.M. Blenkinsopp, V. Chapman, D. Chaytor, Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. P. Crathorne, V. Crosby, Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, D. Farry, T.F. Forrest, P. Gittins J.P., Mrs. B. Graham, A. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.E. Higgin, A. Hodgson, T. Hogan, Mrs. L. Hovvels, J.G. Huntington, Ms. I. Jackson, J.M. Khan, B. Lamb, Mrs. E. Maddison, C. Nelson, D.A. Newell, B.M. Ord, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith, B. Stephens, K. Thompson, T. Ward, W. Waters and Mrs E. M. Wood

**Apologies:** Councillors B.F. Avery J.P, Mrs. D. Bowman, T. Brimm, D.R. Brown, J. Burton, D.M. Hancock, G.M.R. Howe, Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Potts, J. Robinson J.P, A. Warburton and J. Wayman J.P

**C.47/07            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**C.48/07            MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**C.49/07            MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that since the last meeting she had attended 39 functions and events including a Celebration of Sedgefield "Awards for Sensational Youth and Kool Kash 2007" at Ferryhill Leisure Centre, Whickham Clavering Rotary Club Meeting a Preview Evening of Railart at Locomotion, Shildon and Great Aycliffe and Peterlee Shows.

She had also met with representatives of Chinese Government Women's Federation and attended the Golf Tournament Day at Knotty Hill Golf Club as well as Sedgefield Music Festival's World Spoon Championships.

In addition the Mayor reported she had attended a number of civic functions and events including the Civic Mass and Service at St. Mary's Church, Newton Aycliffe. She had also attended four diamond weddings and seven golden wedding anniversary celebrations.

**C.50/07            STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2007)**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the Audit Commission's audit of the 2006/07 Annual Statement of Accounts. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Paul Hepple from the Audit Commission was in attendance to present the report.

It was noted that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued. There were no material changes applied to the draft Statement of Accounts, however, there were some non-material amendments which needed to be approved although they had no impact on the financial standing of the Authority. Details of the amendments were outlined at the meeting.

It was noted that the report had been considered by Audit Committee earlier that day and the report had been received.

*RESOLVED : That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 as amended be approved.*

#### **C.51/07**

#### **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

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

It was explained that the Electoral Administration Act 2006 required that the Council complete the review of polling districts and polling places by the end of 2007 and at least every four years thereafter.

The report outlined the review process, the work carried out to date and made recommendations regarding polling district boundaries and polling places.

Members were informed that following publication of notice of the review no requests had been received for polling districts boundaries to be changed. It was therefore being recommended that all existing polling district boundaries be approved.

These proposals needed to proceed to consultation stage to obtain representations on the proposals. Council was required to consult with Returning Officers for each of the parliamentary constituencies within the Borough area. Notices would be published inviting comments from electors and other stakeholders. Final proposals on the polling districts and polling places would be produced after taking into consideration representations and would be reported to the next meeting of Council.

- RESOLVED :*
- 1. That the existing polling district boundaries remain unchanged.*
  - 2. That the polling places indicated on the schedule detailed in Appendix A be approved.*
  - 3. That the Acting Returning Officer for the Sedgefield and Bishop Auckland Parliamentary constituencies be consulted on the proposals.*
  - 4. That the proposals be given appropriate publicity in accordance with the legislation.*

5. *The results of the review be also applied to Local Government Polling Districts and places.*

**C.52/07**

**REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

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

It was explained that since the Annual Meeting of Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 when appointments had been made to a number of outside organisations resignations had been received from representatives on the following organisations and nominations were therefore sought for the resulting vacancies :-

- Kool Kash Management Board
- County Durham e-Government Partnership Joint Committee

In addition it was explained that the Council had been invited to appoint a representative to a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group relating to a Review associated with the Childrens Trust looking at children and young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEETS).

The purpose of this report was therefore to consider representation on those outside organisation.

- RECOMMENDED :*
1. *That Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels be appointed to the Kool Kash Management Board,*
  2. *That Councillor J.M. Khan be appointed to the County Durham e-Government Partnership Joint Committee.*
  3. *That Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne be appointed to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group (NEETS).*

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

*RESOLVED:* *That in accordance with Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Act.*

**C.53/07**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES ESTABLISHMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive and Director of Neighbourhood Services (for copy see file of Minutes) regarding a series of establishment changes within the Neighbourhood Services Department.

*RESOLVED : That the report be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.*

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**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email:[enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk)