

Item 3b

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Chamber,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Friday,
16 May 2008

Time: 11.00 a.m.

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

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, B.F. Avery J.P, W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T. Brimm, D.R. Brown, 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, T. Hogan, Mrs. L. Hovvels, J.G. Huntington, Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson, B. Lamb, Mrs. E. Maddison, C. Nelson, D.A. Newell, B.M. Ord, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. C. Potts, J. Robinson J.P, A. Smith, B. Stephens, K. Thompson, A. Warburton, W. Waters and Mrs E. M. Wood

Apologies: Councillors J. Burton, D.M. Hancock, J.E. Higgin, A. Hodgson, G.M.R. Howe, Ms. I. Jackson, J.M. Khan and T. Ward

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 couples celebrating notable wedding anniversaries, and people who had gained various educational achievements and awards.

Specific reference was made to her nominated charity the Children's Diabetes Trust Fund for which she had raised £10,082.29 to date during her term in office. It was anticipated that this sum would be increased to £10,832 when other additional income was included. She thanked the local community, business sector and members of staff for their support and generosity.

Councillor Mrs. Iveson presented Dr. W. Lamb, Consultant Paediatrician Bishop Auckland Hospital with a cheque. Dr Lamb expressed his thanks and appreciation for the donation.

The Mayor also expressed her thanks to Councillor John Robinson JP for the support and assistance he had given her throughout the past year .

C.1/08

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared a personal interest in Item 12 on the agenda "Local Government Review Proposals – Implications – Proposed single tier areas: Protection of historic traditions and ceremonial arrangements" as members of Town Councils:-

Councillors Mrs S.J. Iveson, J. Robinson JP, W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs D. Bowman, Mrs J. Gray, G.C. Gray, D. Farry, Mrs E.M. Wood, Mrs E. Maddison, and W. Waters

C.2/08

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

RESOLVED : That Councillor J. Robinson, J.P., be elected Mayor for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

Councillor Robinson, J.P. signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor and took the Chair.

Councillor Robinson, J.P. said that it was an honour and a tremendous privilege to accept the position of Mayor and he would endeavour to carry out the duties with dignity honour, sincerity and commitment that the position merits.

He made reference to the forthcoming year which would be the final year for Sedgefield Borough Council before Local Government Reorganisation and the transition to a new Unitary Authority. He would , therefore, be the last Mayor of the Borough. Opportunity needed to be taken throughout the year to celebrate the many successes and achievements of the Borough Council as well as facilitating "business as usual" with the provision of Council services.

His chosen charity for the year would be Butterwick Hospice.

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

C.3/08

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESOLVED : That Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson be elected Deputy Mayor for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor.

C.4/08

APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED : That Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong be elected Leader of the Council for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

C.5/08

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED : That Councillor V. Crosby be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

C.6/08

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

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 in relation to Article 9 dealing with Standards Committee role, function and membership and also officer delegations.

RESOLVED : That the amendments set out in the Appendix to the report 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.7/08

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).

RESOLVED : That the allocation of seats to political groups be in accordance with the schedule attached to the report. (Appendix A).

CABINET, COMMITTEES, PANELS, FORUMS, WORKING PARTIES AND GROUPS : MEMBERSHIP 2008/09

C.8/08

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.9/08

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 B.M. Ord
Plus vacancy

C.10/08

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 Mrs. D. Bowman
Councillor J. Burton
Councillor Mrs. S. Haigh
Councillor Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson
Councillor Ms. I. Jackson
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor K. Thompson
Councillor T. Ward
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Wood

Plus 2 Co-optees (non-voting)

C.11/08

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. S. J. Iveson
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison
Councillor B. Stephens
Councillor A. Smith
Councillor A. Warburton

C.12/08

AUDIT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED : That the Audit Committee comprises the following Members:

Chairman : Councillor D. Chaytor
Vice-Chairman: To be appointed at first meeting of the Committee

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

C.13/08

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.14/08

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 Mrs. S.J. Iveson
Councillor J.M. Khan
Councillor B. Lamb
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor K. Thompson

C.15/08

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.16/08

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
Mr. I. Jamieson (Independent Co-optee)
Mr. B. Argyle (Independent Co-optee)

Plus Vacancy

Plus 2 Parish/Town Council
Representatives

C.17/08

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. D. 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 Mrs. S.J. Iveson
Councillor J. M. Khan
Councillor C. Nelson
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor
Councillor Mrs. C. Potts
Councillor T. Ward

Plus vacancy

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

C.18/08

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.19/08

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.20/08 PERSONNEL APPEALS PANEL

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

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. A. M. 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
Plus Vacancy

C.21/08 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.22/08

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.23/08

AREA 3 FORUM

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

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

Chairman : Councillor T. Ward

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. Burton

Members : Councillor D.R. Brown
Councillor D. Chaytor
Councillor Mrs. L. Howvels
Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Plus vacancy

C.24/08

AREA 4 FORUM

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

(All Members representing the Byerley, Sunnydale and Thickley 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.25/08

AREA 5 FORUM

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

(All Members representing the Greenfield Middridge, Neville & Simpasure, 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.26/08

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.27/08

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS 2008/2009

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 2008/09 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)	
MLA North East	
North East Sport	
Northern Arts Local Authority Forum	
Northumbria Tourist Board (Local Authority Meeting)	
Sedgefield Arts and Recreation Community Association (Ceddesfeld Hall).	

Housing Portfolio (Councillor W. Waters)

Organisation	Additional Membership/ Substitution/ Notes
National Council for Housing and Planning (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
Spennymoor Town Centre Forum	Together with Councillors A. Gray and A. Smith
Be Enterprising Franchising Co.	

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
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 J.M. Khan with Councillor Mrs K. Conroy acting as substitute.
Durham County Councils Health Scrutiny Committee	Councillors A. Gray and Mrs. P. Crathorne
Durham County Overview and Scrutiny Member Network	Councillors J.E. Higgin and A. Gray
Durham Rural Community Council	Councillor A. Hodgson
Durham Tees Valley Airport Consultative Committee	Councillor J. Robinson, J.P.
Housing, Regeneration and Development Company – Shadow Board	Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong and V. Crosby
Greenfield School (Newton Aycliffe) Shared Use Scheme (Management Committee)	Councillor Mrs. B. Graham
Joint Durham Councils Transport Scrutiny Review Group	Councillors J.E. Higgin and A. Gray
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group (NEETS)	Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne
Jubilee Fields Community Association	Councillor V. Chapman
Koolkash Management Board	Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvells 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 J. Robinson, JP. (President of the Association) Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, G.C. Gray, Mrs. L. Hovvels, Mrs. S.J. Iveson B. Lamb, 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

C.28/08

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS 2008/2009

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive regarding the programme of meetings for the 2008/09 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 2008/09.

C.29/08

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PROPOSALS - IMPLICATIONS - PROPOSED SINGLE TIER AREAS: PROTECTION OF HISTORIC TRADITIONS AND CEREMONIAL ARRANGEMENTS – UPDATE

N.B. In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct Councillors Mrs S.J. Iveson, J. Robinson JP, W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs D. Bowman, Mrs J. Gray, G.C. Gray, D. Farry, Mrs E.M. Wood, Mrs E. Maddison, and W. Waters declared an interest in this item. All Members referred to above remained in the meeting and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) giving an update following the release of a discussion paper prepared by the Department of Communities and Local Government, containing proposals for the protection of ceremonial rights and privileges in areas affected by Local Government Reorganisation.

It was explained that secondary legislation and regulations were to be prepared to protect those rights and privileges. Cabinet had already approved a decision to inform the Department of Communities and Local Government and the County Council that Sedgefield Borough Council would seek to protect existing rights and privileges belonging to the Council following the grant of a Royal Charter in 1996.

- RESOLVED :**
- 1. That the Chief Executive of Durham County Council (in its capacity as Transitional Authority) be informed that Sedgefield Borough Council wishes to retain the privileges and rights belonging to the Council following the grant of a Royal Charter in 1996.*
 - 2. That the suggestion made by the DCLG , following consultation with Sedgefield Town Council, that the privileges and rights be transferred to Sedgefield Town Council be approved and the DCLG be requested to make appropriate regulations under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 accordingly.*
 - 3. That the DCLG be informed of the Council's wishes.*

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