

# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Chamber,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Friday,  
21 November 2008

Time: 11.00 a.m.

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

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. D. Bowman, D.R. Brown, V. Chapman, Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. P. Crathorne, V. Crosby, Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, T.F. Forrest, P. Gittins J.P., Mrs. B. Graham, A. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.E. Higgin, A. Hodgson, J.M. Khan, Mrs. E. Maddison, D.A. Newell, B.M. Ord, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Warburton, T. Ward, W. Waters and Mrs E. M. Wood

**Apologies:** Councillors B.F. Avery J.P, W.M. Blenkinsopp, T. Brimm, J. Burton, D. Chaytor, D. Farry, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, D.M. Hancock, T. Hogan, Mrs. L. Hovvels, G.M.R. Howe, J.G. Huntington, Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson, Ms. I. Jackson, B. Lamb, C. Nelson, Mrs. C. Potts, J. Robinson J.P, A. Smith, B. Stephens and K. Thompson

### **C.45/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs E M Paylor indicated that she would be declaring a Personal Interest in the Item relating to LSVT as a member of the Board of Sedgefield Borough Homes.

### **C.46/08 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

### **C.47/08 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was explained that in the absence of the Mayor details of the function, events, etc., attended by the Mayor would be given at the next meeting.

### **C.48/08 CABINET PORTFOLIOS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) in relation to portfolio responsibilities to Cabinet Members.

Members were reminded that at the Annual Meeting of Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 the portfolios for Housing and Environmental were allocated to Councillors W. Waters and A. Hodgson respectively.

Following the appointment of Councillor Waters to the Board of Sedgefield Borough Homes, the Leader agreed that to avoid any conflict of interest in relation to housing matters that Councillors Waters and Hodgson should exchange portfolio responsibilities.

Councillor Hodgson was therefore now responsible for Housing portfolio and Councillor Waters for Environment. Membership to outside organisations as representatives of the Council would also be exchanged as appropriate.

Council's confirmation was sought.

*RESOLVED : That the Leaders action in exchanging portfolio responsibilities as identified above be confirmed.*

**C.49/08**

**SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - WINDLESTONE HALL - SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services (for copy see file of Minutes) regarding a Supplementary Planning Document which had been prepared to guide the redevelopment of Windlestone Hall respecting the intrinsic value of the Grade II listed building, its setting and other constituent elements currently offered for sale by the Council.

It was explained that under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Borough Council could bring forward Supplementary Planning Documents in advance of the adoption of its core strategy provided that the document was linked to a "saved" policy in the local plan. In this case the relevant policies were E2 and E18.

The draft Supplementary Planning Document had been subject to consultation between 17<sup>th</sup> March and 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. The Council had received 72 responses to the draft document and had prepared an accompanying consultation statement identifying each of those comments and how the Council had responded to them.

*RESOLVED : That the Windlestone Hall Supplementary Planning Document be adopted following a period for legal challenge.*

**C.50/08**

**LSVT TO SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH HOMES**

NB In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct Councillor Mrs E M Paylor declared a Personal Interest in this item and remained in the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services (for copy see file of Minutes) covering the main issues and progress associated with the transfer of the Council's housing stock to Sedgfield Borough Homes.

It was noted the completion Transfer of Homes prior to vesting day of the new unitary council represented a major programme of work for the Council and as such the transfer was a key priority within the Council,s Transition Plan.

A programme team of senior officers supported by consultants had been established under the overall direction of the Director of Neighbourhood Services. A similar programme team had been established within the Housing department under the direction of the Director of Housing.

Members were reminded that at the meeting of Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 a recommendation had been agreed to afford the Chief Executive, or his nominated deputy, delegated powers to consider and resolve all matters on behalf of the Council in relation to the proposed transfer to Sedgefield Borough Homes in order to ensure a speedy and smooth transition to tenants.

It was explained that future reports would be presented to Cabinet covering areas such as :-

- Asset Transfer Agreement
- Financial matters
- Housing Benefit
- Service Level Agreements with the successor Council.

A final report would be submitted to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009 with the completion of the transfer remaining on the track for 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

- RESOLVED :*
1. *That progress towards transfer of the authority's housing stock to Sedgefield Borough Homes be noted.*
  2. *That the operational boundary for 2008/9 be increased to £25m.*

**C.51/08**

### **TRANSITION PLAN 2008-2009- DIRECTION OF TRAVEL SELF ASSESSMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) summarising the progress to date on the Transition Plan in relation to the Direction of Travel Self-Assessment assessing Council's progress on the plan.

The Direction of Travel Self-Assessment required to be completed to assist the Audit Commission in preparing the annual audit letter and had been submitted to the audit commission on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2008.

The Council was currently on target to deliver 30 of the 32 key priority initiatives and 9 of the ten key projects set out in the 2008/ 2009 Transition Plan which had been approved by Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

The Council was maintaining strong performance within corporate and service areas throughout the Transition Plan.

Members expressed their appreciation to Management Team and their staff for the commitment and work that they had undertaken to maintain a high standard of service delivery.

*RESOLVED : That progress to date on the Transition Plan and Council's performance be noted.*

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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