

Meeting of the **COUNCIL** of the Teesdale District
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on
WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY at 2:00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr DAR Forster

CHAIR

COUNCILLORS:

RA Bell	DH Reed
R Betton	GM Richardson
DP Blackie	GK Robinson
PM Charlton	P Ryman
M Clark	JM Salter
AJ Cooke	WHT Salvin
MM English	A Smith
MWL Hamilton	KW Stansfield
B Harrison	PL Stubbs
O Hedley	EM Walton
JR Hinchcliffe	JR Watson
KJ Hodgson	K Watson
P Hughes	N Wood
D Metcalfe	

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Cllrs M Bolden, JH Fergus and K Coates

Officers in Attendance:

N Stokell	Chief Executive
P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
R Bowles	Assistant Chief Executive
J Kellett	Chief Finance Officer
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer
T Watson	Director of Regeneration
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

58 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman had not been notified of any items of urgent business.

59 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12 December 2007 and the Special Council held on 23 January 2008 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Clark declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 15(c) of the Grants Sub Committee minutes: Item relating to Toft Hill and Etherley Community Association. Councillors KW Stansfield, EM Walton, PM Charlton and DH Reed declared a personal interest in item 8: Teesdale Housing Strategy (Minute 65), as members of Teesdale Housing Association.

61 QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by members of the public or members of Council.

62 VOLUNTARY SECTOR PRESENTATION

Michele Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, 2D Volunteer Bureau updated the Council on the background and funding position of 2D and outlined the services offered. Michele encouraged members to pass on the details of any groups or individuals within their wards who might benefit from 2D support and gave examples of groups within Teesdale who require volunteers, and also outreach sessions and where they are available. Michele answered a number of questions from members, following which she was thanked for her presentation.

63 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(A) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 22 January 2008 be received.
- (2) That in respect of Minute 145 (2): Street Naming and Numbering; the Assistant Director (Environmental Services) be authorised to deal with all matters relating to the naming and numbering of streets and developments, in consultation with the appropriate ward members.

Members also referred to Minute 141 (Teesdale Listens), Minute 144 (Local Government Reorganisation: Transition Policy) and Minute 149 (Provision of Taxi Ranks in Barnard Castle).

- (3) That the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 11 February 2008 be received.
- (4) That in respect of Minute 160: General Fund and Capital Budget 2008/2009; it was resolved:
 - 1) That the proposed schedule of fees and charges at Appendix B be approved.
 - 2) That Council Tax be not increased for 2008-2009
 - 3) That the reserves policy attached at appendix C be approved
 - 4) That the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Executive Committee for approving the use of unallocated balances in relation to Local Government reorganisation.
 - 5) That the proposed General Fund revenue budget 2008/2009 contained at Appendix D be approved
 - 6) That the capital programme at Appendix E be approved
 - 7) That the prudential indicators and limits at Appendix F be adopted
 - 8) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement within Appendix F that sets out the Council's policy on MRP be approved
 - 9) That the treasury management strategy 2008/09 and the treasury prudential indicators contained in the treasury management strategy Appendix G be approved.
 - 10) That the investment strategy 2008/09 contained in the treasury management strategy (Appendix G) and the detailed criteria included in Annex G1 be approved.
 - 11) That the consultation feedback contained in Appendix H be noted.

- 12) That the proposal to not update the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.
- 13) That in respect of the recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - a) The charges for the Hole in the Wall car park be as now proposed.
 - b) The requested information relating to assets and Section 106 monies be provided.
 - c) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to carry out a review of future cemetery provision in Teesdale, to report by June 2008.
 - d) Consideration be given to any expenditure which may be required in relation to the Galgate car park as and when appropriate.

The Chief Finance Officer gave further information on the level of Council balances.

(B) OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2008 be received.
- (2) That, in respect of Minute 147 (Executive Committee, 22 January 2008: Disposal of Market Place Toilets), which was called-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 58) for further consideration by Council; following consideration of the reasons for the call-in, it was agreed that this matter be referred back to Executive Committee for further consideration.

(C) AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2008 be received.

(D) PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 19 December 2007 and 16 January and 6 February 2008 be received.

(E) GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2008 be received and the recommendations therein be approved.

(F) LICENSING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2008 be received.

(G) STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2007 be received.
- (2) That in respect of Minute 16: Report of the Monitoring Officer – Membership Update:
 - (a) The appointment of Mr T Lewis as an independent member of the Standards Committee be approved.

- (b) The appointment of Cllr J Blissett (Barnard Castle Town Council) as a Parish Council member of the Standards Committee be approved.

Councillor WHT Salvin requested his abstention from voting be noted on minute 16.

(H) BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2008 be received.

64 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr EM Walton presented a report seeking approval of the Sustainable Community Strategy which has been produced by the Teesdale Partnership to act as the overarching document that encompasses the priority issues for those who live and work in Teesdale. The strategy covers the period from now until 2021; this means that it will be updated periodically in response to new challenges and legislation. The strategy covers four overarching priorities: people, prosperity, access, environment; and eleven strategic outcomes, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Sustainable Community Strategy be approved.

65 TEESDALE HOUSING STRATEGY 2007-2010

The Lead Member for Housing, Cllr PM Charlton presented a report seeking approval and adoption of the revised Housing Strategy for Teesdale in preparation for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Strategic Housing Inspections in March and May 2008 respectively. The Housing Strategy had been recommended for approval by the Executive Committee subject to the inclusion of a map showing income inequality levels by ward and to a foreword from the Lead Member for housing. These amendments have now been included. The officers involved in the preparation of the strategy were commended.

RESOLVED:

That the Final Draft of the Housing Strategy be approved.

66 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2011

The Leader of the Council, Cllr R Betton presented a report seeking approval from Council of the revised corporate plan. In line with the Corporate and Budget Planning Timetable 2008-2009, part 1 of the Corporate Plan had been drafted. This has undergone a Sustainability Appraisal, which has suggested some minor changes to the wording of the Council's priorities (those relating to economy and housing). Service Managers are currently working to develop robust, SMART service plans which are due to be completed by the end of February 2008. From these, SMART actions will be added to the action plans contained within the Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the vision, four amended draft priorities and ambitions for inclusion in the Corporate Plan 2008-11 be approved

(2) That the progress made in developing the Corporate Plan

2008-11 in line with the Corporate and Budget Planning Timetable 2008-2009 be noted.

67 COUNCIL TAX 2008/09

The Lead Member for Resources, Cllr GK Robinson was due to present a report to this Council meeting but the item was deferred to a Special Council meeting to be held the following day, as the Police Authority's requirements would not be known until after this Council meeting.

68 POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Leader of the Council, Cllr R Betton presented a report on a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places recently carried out. The review had taken place as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2006. The aim of the review is to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to all electors, including those with disabilities. A notice of the review was published in mid-December 2007 inviting comments from any elector or interested party. The consultation period ended on 18 January 2008. As none of the comments expressed any dissatisfaction it was proposed that no alterations be made to the current arrangements.

RESOLVED:

(1) That no changes be made to the current polling districts and polling places in Teesdale.

(2) That accessibility of polling places including in Barnard Castle, as now suggested, be further considered following the County Council elections in May 2008.

69 LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS'

The Lead Member for Resources, Cllr GK Robinson presented a report on the publication of the Government's proposals concerning orders and regulations necessary to implement the new locally developed regime for dealing with allegations of misconduct by members of local authorities. Members have previously been informed on the intention that these arrangements will be implemented from 1 April 2008. That remains the Government's intention. The Standards Committee had been preparing for the introduction of local management of complaints for some months.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for the introduction of local management of complaints of misconduct by local authority member be noted.

70 LEAD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Housing

The Lead Member for Housing, Cllr PM Charlton gave an update on the recent achievements and issues being progressed within the Housing lead role.

B. Regeneration

The Lead Member for Regeneration, Cllr JH Fergus was unable to be present at the meeting and could not, therefore, provide the Council with an update. Members briefly discussed some of the current issues.

C. Leader

The Leader of the Council, Cllr R Betton gave an update on current key issues, including the CPA inspection, Local Government Reorganisation and Community Leadership (introduction of 'Talk Teesdale and 'Teesdale Listens' initiative).

The meeting closed at 4.45pm

CHAIRMAN

MD/GR