

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON
HELD ON THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER, 2005

Present: Councillor C Walker (Chair)

Councillors D Armstrong, E Bell, S Bishop,
Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn, P J Campbell,
D Chaytor, A Collinson, Mrs E M Connor,
R Crute, R Davison, Mrs J Freak, K Gallagher,
J Goodwin, J Haggan, H High, Mrs E
Huntington, B Joyce, T Longstaff, D Myers,
A Napier, Mrs A Naylor, Mrs M Nugent,
G Patterson, W R Peardon, G Pinkney,
B Quinn, D Raine, M Routledge, Mrs
B A Sloan, P Stradling, D J Taylor-Gooby,
R Taylor and R J Todd

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 3rd November, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE** held on 21st September, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the decision taken, be noted.

3. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPOINTMENTS AND APPEALS PANEL** held on 31st October, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the decision taken, be noted.

4. **PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEWS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services and Administration on Periodic Electoral Reviews, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Head of Democratic Services and Administration explained that the report sought approval to a response to the Electoral Commission's consultation process relating to Periodic Electoral Reviews (PERs).

The Boundary Committee for England (BCE), a Statutory Committee of the Electoral Commission was responsible for reviewing the electoral arrangements of local authorities in England. During the period 1996-2004 the BCE carried out a periodic electoral review of all 386 English local authorities. From this programme, the Electoral Commission was undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the policies and processes used to guide PERs and had published a consultation paper seeking views on this.

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The consultation raised specific questions and these were set out in Appendix 1 to the report together with suggested responses.

RESOLVED that the proposed response to the Electoral Commission as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

5. **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services and Administration in relation to the payment of an allowance to Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Head of Democratic Services and Administration reported that in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council was required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council as to the payment of allowances to Members.

Regulation 20(3) of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, allowed the payment of an allowance to the Panel for carrying out its functions and the amount payable was at the Authority's discretion.

In recognition of their work and to reflect the time commitment of the Panel Members it was felt that an allowance should be payable for their attendance at meetings. If the Council was minded to agree it was considered that an amount equivalent to that paid to the Council's co-optees would be appropriate.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) an allowance be payable to the Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel;
- (b) the amount payable be equivalent to that paid to the Council's co-optees i.e. £10.19 per hour (spinal column point 25 of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services Spinal Column Range);
- (c) the allowance be paid with immediate effect;
- (d) the Members Allowances Scheme be amended accordingly.

6. **HOME AND REMOTE WORKING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Personnel which gave details of a Home and Remote Working Policy, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report sought approval to the adoption of a Home and Remote Working Policy for employees of the Council. A draft policy had been prepared for Members consideration and was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the Home and Remote Working Policy as attached to the report, be adopted.

7. **CONCESSIONARY FARES FOR OLDER AND DISABLED PEOPLE - REVISED STATUTORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FROM 1st APRIL, 2006**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services on concessionary fares for older and disabled people, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report gave details of the current concessionary scheme operated by the District Councils in County Durham and the revised statutory minimum requirements from 1st April 2006. From this date, the District Council as a travel concession authority must provide its older and disabled residents with free bus travel within its geographical boundaries any time on a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday and between 9.30am and 11pm on any other day.

In the absence of published guidance and given the uncertainty of future funding the report proposed that a statutory notice be published outlining the minimum statutory requirements only and that the discretionary elements of the scheme be considered at a later date. This notice would outline the proposed reimbursement arrangements for the bus operators.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Council publish the required notice covering the statutory elements of the scheme;
- (b) the Council continues to work with other local authorities in County Durham and the bus operators to determine the discretionary elements of the scheme and ensure it was implemented successfully.

8. **URGENT DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE – EAST DURHAM BUSINESS CENTRE**

The Head of Democratic Services and Administration reported that the Executive at its meeting on 1st November, 2005, considered that the decision taken in respect of the abovementioned report was urgent and should not be subject to the call-in process.

The decision was considered to be urgent as works needed to begin on site by 28th November, 2005, to ensure that the funding was spent by the end of March 2006.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the Council's Constitution relating to call-in and urgency, the Chair of the Council, in consultation with the Chairs and/or Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees agreed that the decision was reasonable and urgent and should not be subject to call-in.

RESOLVED that the decision taken, be noted.

9. **TO SEAL DOCUMENTS**

RESOLVED that the action taken in affixing the Common Seal to the following documents, be endorsed:-

- 18916 Lease made between EDC (1) and Wheatley Hill Community Association (2) relating to land together with any buildings or

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- structures erected thereon situate at Wheatley Hill Community Centre, Stephen's Terrace, Wheatley Hill (in duplicate)
- 18917 Transfer of Part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Stuart and Tammy Graveling (2) relating to 56 Basingstoke Road, Peterlee.
- 18918 Transfer of Part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Lord Lee Russell Tanswell and Lyn Gail Tanswell (2) relating to 26 Attlee Avenue, Blackhall Colliery, Hartlepool.
- 18919 Transfer of Part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Christopher Keniry and Vanessa Keniry (2) relating to Garage No. 4 Hulme Court, Peterlee
- 18920 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Ian Carr (2) relating to Garage No 4 Trevelyan Place, Peterlee
- 18921 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 17 Fox Street, Seaham – Title No DU78621
- 18922 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 67 Johnson Estate, Wheatley Hill – Title No DU176874
- 18923 The Easington (numbers 69 and 92 Thornlaw North), Thornley Compulsory Purchase Order 2005
- 18924 Contract made between EDC (1) and East Durham Homes (2) relating to Structural Repairs phase 28 at Wingate (duplicate)
- 18925 Contract made between EDC (1) and East Durham Homes (2) relating to Heating Scheme to 52 No. Dwelling at Marlborough, Seaham (duplicate)
- 18926 Transfer of Part of Registered title (s) made between EDC (1) and Shirley Brown (2) relating to 56 Westmorland Rise, Peterlee.
- 18927 Transfer of Part of Registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Stanley Cummins and Mary Cummins (2) relating to 16 Queensbury Road, Seaham.
- 18928 Lease made between EDC (1) and Phillip John Smith (2) relating to 16 Hatfield Place, Peterlee.
- 18929 Transfer of Part of Registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Kay Dixon (2) relating to 66 St Ives Place, Murton.
- 18930 Transfer of Part of Registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Robert Richard Deakin and Karen Deakin (2) relating to 55 Westmorland Rise, Peterlee
- 18931 Cancellation of entries relating to a registered charge relating to 2 Attlee Avenue, Blackhall – Title No DU233367

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- 18932 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Paul John Payne (2) relating to 8 White Crescent, Hesleden
- 18933 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Marc James Robinson and Karen Robinson (2) relating to 17 Burt Close, Peterlee
- 18934 Lease made between EDC (1) and Mr Steven Foster (2) relating to No 7 Daffodil Close, Blackhall
- 18935 Grant of Easement made between EDC (1) and Northern Gas Networks Limited (2) regarding Land and Premises at Haswell (in duplicate)
- 18936 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Stephen Mark Jones (2) and Kelsey McManners (3) relating to 29 Basingstoke Road, Peterlee
- 18937 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Phillipa Benson (2) relating to 28 Franklyn Road, Peterlee
- 18938 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and June Hill (2) relating to 20 Metcalfe Crescent, Seaham
- 18939 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and James William and Jacqueline Iley (2) relating to 28 Robson Avenue, Peterlee
- 18940 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Kenneth Ball and Julie Humphrey (2) relating to 19 Thornhill Road, Shotton Colliery
- 18941 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and David Anthony Burney and Michelle Burney (2) relating to 25 Bruce Place, Peterlee
- 18942 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Edward and Mary Maxwell (2) relating to 3 Purvis Terrace, Trimdon Station
- 18943 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and David Neil Chandler and Juliet Chandler (2) relating to 3 Bedford Place, Peterlee
- 18944 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and David Anthony Burney and Michelle Burney (2) relating to 25 Bruce Place, Peterlee
- 18945 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Clifford Thompson and Shirley Ann Thompson (2) relating to 22 Ellesmere Drive, Seaham
- 18946 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Edward Smith and Linda Smith (2) relating to 32 Front Street, Hesleden

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- 18947 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and June Hill (2) relating to 20 Metcalfe Crescent, Seaham
- 18948 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Robert Olaman, Gordon Parkin, Norman Hardy and Alexander Marshall Wylde (2) relating to Land adjoining Elmtree Court, Seaham
- 18949 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between Robert Olaman, Gordon Parkin, Norman Hardy and Alexander Marshall Wylde (1) and EDC (2) relating to Land adjoining Elmtree Court, Seaham
- 18950 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Kenneth Ball and Julie Humphrey (2) relating to No. 19 Thornhill Road, Shotton Colliery
- 18951 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Lesley Porter (2) relating to No. 21 Dawson Road, Wingate
- 18952 Lease made between EDC (1) and Miss V Gleghorn (2) relating to 8 West Grove, Seaham

10. **ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government Access to Information Act 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair agreed that consideration be given to one item of business not shown on the Agenda as a matter of urgency, following consultation with the Proper Officer.

11. **COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER OF PROPERTIES 69 AND 92 THORNLAWS NORTH, THORNLEY (AOB)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Asset and Property Management on a proposed compulsory purchase order in respect of 69 and 92 Thornlaw North, Thornley, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Head of Asset and Property Management advised that the report sought a formal resolution to make the District of Easington (numbers 69 and 92 Thornlaw North) Thornley Compulsory Purchase Order 2005 to facilitate regeneration proposals for Thornlaw North.

Members considered the Statement of Reasons relative to the Compulsory Purchase Order which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. This set out in detail the reasons for acquiring the properties.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Council hereby make the District of Easington (numbers 69 and 92 Thornlaw North) Thornley Compulsory Purchase Order 2005;
- (b) authority be granted to undertake the necessary procedures to bring the Order into effect.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 11 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM OF BUSINESS, COUNCILLORS MRS E M CONNOR, R DAVISON, K GALLAGHER, M ROUTLEDGE AND D J TAYLOR-GOUBY DECLARED PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND LEFT THE MEETING.

13. INVESTMENT PROPOSALS - ALMO 3 STAR STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the Head of Housing Strategy which sought approval to the investment proposals to facilitate East Durham Homes' achievement of '3 star' housing management and maintenance services. A copy of the report had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the package of proposals as detailed in the report, be agreed;
- (b) the financial arrangements as set out in 7.2 in the report, be agreed subject to the financing being varied should opportunities arise to improve the overall financial position. The overall commitment would not be varied.