

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2006**

Present: Councillor Mrs J Maitland (Chair)

Councillors D Armstrong, B. Bates,  
S Bishop, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn,  
A Burnip, P J Campbell, 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, R Liddle, T Longstaff,  
Mrs J Maslin, Mrs S Mason, D Myers,  
A Napier, Mrs A Naylor, Mrs M Nugent,  
G Patterson, W R Peardon, B Quinn, D Raine,  
C Reynolds, F Shaw, Mrs B Sloan,  
P Stradling, R Taylor, R J Todd, C Walker,  
and P G Ward

**1. EDUCATION WHITE PAPER**

County Councillor N Foster, Lead Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Mr N Charlton, Deputy Director of Education, Durham County Council were in attendance to give a presentation to Members on the Education White Paper. County Councillor Foster commenced by explaining that the purpose of the presentation was to give details of the implications of the Education White Paper. He introduced N Charlton who outlined the main points of the Paper and provided Members with a summary of the key issues.

He advised that a significant change was that there would be no community schools. In future, these would be Trust schools and the Governors, as well as managing schools as at present, would be responsible for the land and buildings, thereby removing any responsibility from the local education authority. In addition schools would have the freedom to decide their own admissions. Positive aspects included the appointment of Choice Advisors to help parents with their preference of school and the provision of personalised learning.

He then proceeded to outline the future role of local authorities which included a new duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access. School Organisation Committees would be abolished and there was also a new duty to identify children missing from education. Any complaints would be made to OFSTED and not the local authority.

The Local Government Association (LGA) had responded to the White Paper and N Charlton briefed Members on this. The LGA welcomed the strategic role for Councils the Government outlined in the White Paper. However, they were concerned that if Councils were to commission services and challenge schools, sufficient powers were needed and the correct levers with which to achieve this.

With regard to accountability, the LGA was concerned that the White Paper did not set out who new Trust schools were accountable to at a local level. Whilst it outlined how schools would be able to gain greater autonomy it failed to address adequately how these schools would be accountable to their local communities. The LGA would be lobbying to ensure that the Council's strategic role would enable them to hold local providers to account.

In addition, the White Paper did not address local communities key concerns regarding school admissions. Fair school admissions underpinned the Government's policies on choice and access. Unless schools were required to abide by the Code of Practice on school admissions and protocols on hard to reach pupils, the attainment gaps between poor children and those from more affluent backgrounds would remain.

In summary, N Charlton stated that the two main issues were that all mainstream schools were to become Independent Trusts and a school system where all mainstream schools were Trust Schools would be operated. Other issues were how this fit in with other agendas such as the Standards Agenda, Children's Agenda, extended schools and cohesion/ social justice. There was little information in the White Paper about this. The role of the Local education Authority was to be commissioning and not providing in future.

The White Paper stated that 'it was committed to enabling all schools to become self-governing independent schools with autonomy over staffing, premises and admissions that were in the schools best interests'. Durham County Council were concerned that there was no mention of it being in the best interests of the community and children.

He then proceeded to outline the recommendations of an "Alternative White Paper" published by a number of MPs which concluded that the Local Authority was best placed to take oversight of the local supply and demand for school places and of parental aspirations. It proposed that local authorities be empowered to assess and if necessary refuse or restrain the expansion of schools where this would not be in the overall interests of pupils in that area.

In relation to the admissions issue, the revised Code of Practice on Admissions should not be published in advance of the new Education Bill. The revised Code should provide a clear definition of fair access and list the criteria that were considered to be acceptable in a fair and non-selective admissions policy. The Code should be statutory and all publicly funded schools should be required to comply with its provisions. The Paper should set out how local authorities monitored and ensured compliance.

Local authorities should be given additional powers to co-ordinate the admissions process for all schools. Admissions forums should become responsible for approving the suitability of local admissions policies in the context of the broader interests of all children within the local authority's jurisdiction.

With regard to governance, local authorities should retain the power to decide whether to function solely as commissioners and not providers of education and there should be no ban on new schools being developed as community schools.

In conclusion, County Councillor Foster advised that Durham County Council had made representations to the Education Secretary on the implications of the Paper which would be copied to the District Council.

Following a lengthy question and answer session the Chair thanked County Councillor Foster and N Charlton for the presentation and it was **AGREED** that the information given, be noted.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** of the District Council of Easington held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
3. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the decision taken, be noted.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the decision taken, be noted.

5. **AUDIT 2004/2005 - AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF AUDITING STANDARD (SAS) 610**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Financial Management which advised of the recent review carried out by the Audit Commission following the audit of the Council's financial statements for 2004/2005. A copy of the report had been circulated to each Member.

Details of the Audit Commission letter were attached as Appendix 1 to the report and the Head of Financial Management advised that it had previously been considered by the Council's Audit Scrutiny Committee. It was pleasing to report that there were no matters which the Audit Commission wished to draw to Members' attention under the potential areas they were required to report on as detailed in their letter.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report, be noted.

6. **URGENT DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE - APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DEPOT CENTRALISATION TO HACKWORTH ROAD**

The Chief Executive reported that the Executive at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, considered that the decision taken in respect of the abovementioned report was urgent and should not be subject to the call-in process, for the reasons given.

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.

7. **TO SEAL DOCUMENTS**

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

- 19035 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Tracey Scothern (2) relating to 104 Charters Crescent, South Hetton
- 19036 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Teresa Bernadette Simpson (2) relating to No. 26 Hawthorne Square, Seaham
- 19037 Agreement made between EDC (1) and Regency Windows Limited (2) relating to Contract for Replacement Windows and External Doors to 89 No. Bungalows in Peterlee (in duplicate)
- 19038 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) between EDC (1) and Allan Churchill Younger and Ellen Jane Morley (2) relating to No. 2 Watson Close, Wheatley Hill
- 19039 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Steven Paul Hutchinson and Roseann Hutchinson (2) relating to 3 Lakemore, Peterlee
- 19040 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Anthony Hall and Hayley Ann Hall (2) relating to 24 Glenhurst Road, Easington
- 19041 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Judith Robinson (2) relating to 26 Walton Terrace, Wingate
- 19042 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Christine Malcolm (2) relating to 22 Chester Place, Peterlee
- 19043 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Geraldine Crathorne and Stuart Crathorne (2) relating to 34 William Morris Terrace, Shotton Colliery
- 19044 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Alan Brown and Ann Mary Brown (2) relating to 12 Bruce Glasier Terrace, Shotton Colliery
- 19045 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Simon Davison and Kerry Ann Snowdon (2) relating to 103 Fairbairn Road, Peterlee
- 19046 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between Andrew Stokoe and Kathryn Elizabeth Stokoe (1) and EDC (2) relating to Garage Plot at Coopers Close, Thornley
- 19047 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Karen Dinsdale (2) relating to 11 Hawes Road, Peterlee
- 19048 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and

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- David Brown and Mary Elizabeth Hennessey (2) relating to 32 Morris Crescent, Thornley
- 19049 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Richard Taylor and Margaret Georgina Taylor (2) relating to 187 Basingstoke Road, Peterlee
- 19050 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Gillian Knox (2) relating to 57 Short Grove, Murton
- 19051 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Stephen Richardson (2) relating to 80 Shinwell Crescent, Thornley
- 19052 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Wendy Henning (2) relating to 50 Gore Hill Estate, Thornley
- 19053 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Linda Margaret Bailey and Stephen Axton Bailey (2) relating to 21 Kent Terrace, Haswell Plough
- 19054 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Jon Muncaster and Karen Muncaster (2) relating to 7 Sayer Walk, Peterlee
- 19055 Transfer of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Syed Rehan Mohsan and Donna-Marie Bridges (2) relating to No. 22 Patton Walk, Wheatley Hill
- 19056 Agreement made between EDC (1) and Goldshield Electronic Security Limited (2) relating to Contract for Upgrade of Warden Control Equipment.
- 19057 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Pauline Baker (2) relating to 16 Trevone Square, Murton.
- 19058 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Norman Meakin (2) relating to Garage No. 5 Granville Road, Peterlee
- 19059 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and John Havelock Allan (2) relating to 37 Cook Grove, Horden
- 19060 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Lee James Schofield and Angela Jane Taylor (2) relating to 45 Southway, Peterlee.
- 19061 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and John Mortimer and Victoria Mary Mortimer (2) relating to 39 Severn Close, Peterlee
- 19062 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Shaun Young (2) relating to 91 Portland Avenue, Seaham
- 19063 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Peter Graham and Eric Sidney Armstrong (2) relating to No. 21/22 South Crescent, Horden

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- 19064      Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and William Ayre and Jacqueline Darby (2) relating to No. 3 Williamson Square, Wingate
  
- 19065      Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Peter Graham and Eric Sidney Armstrong (2) relating to No. 31/32 South Crescent, Horden
  
- 19066      Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Kelly Laws and David Wood (2) relating to 34 Basingstoke Road, Peterlee
  
- 19067      Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Debra Sargeant (2) relating to 42 Christchurch Place, Peterlee

At the close of business, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport reported for information that it was proposed to extend the Green Waste Recycling Scheme and the locations for additional bins was currently being looked at.