

Meeting of the **COUNCIL** of the Teesdale District
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on
WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2008 at 2:00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr MWL Hamilton

CHAIR

COUNCILLORS:

RA Bell	DH Reed
R Betton	GM Richardson
M Bolden	GK Robinson
M Clark	KP Ryman
K Coates	JM Salter
AJ Cooke	WHT Salvin
MM English	A Smith
JH Fergus	KW Stansfield
DAR Forster	EM Walton
KJ Hodgson	JR Watson
P Hughes	K Watson
D Metcalfe	N Wood
J Priestley	

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors O Hedley, JR Hinchcliffe, PL Stubbs

Officers in Attendance:

N Stokell	Chief Executive
P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer
J Kellett	Chief Finance Officer
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

37 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

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

38 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 August 2008 and the Special meeting held on 29 September 2008, be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

40 QUESTIONS

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

41 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on 8 September and 6 October 2008 be received.

(ii) OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED;

That the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 17 September be received.

Arising: Minute 52 – Asset Management

Members considered the current position relating to the transfer of assets to parish councils and community organisations. The Chief Finance Officer had completed the initial analysis of assets and information would be circulated to parish councils this week. (Note: Councillor AJ Cooke had submitted his apologies for this meeting).

(iii) AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

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

(iv) PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 3 September and 1 October 2008 be received.

(v) JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2008 be received

(vi) LICENSING COMMITTEE

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2008 be received

42 RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, informed members that Councillor DP Blackie had submitted his resignation from Teesdale District Council, effective from 13 October. The Leader spoke in appreciative terms of the contribution made by Councillor Blackie during his time as a member.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the position be noted and that Councillor Blackie be thanked for his contribution to the Council over the last five and a half years.

(2) That Councillor MJ Clark be appointed to the Grants Sub-Committee.

(3) That no further appointments be made to the Audit & Governance Committee, Member Development Working Group or Teesdale Area Highways Panel.

43 LEAD MEMBER REPORTS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, updated members on matters of interest since his last report, including the continuation of good service provision and performance indicators by the Council and a number of 'legacy' issues which he hoped could be resolved before vesting day.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

44 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2

'That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, minute 45 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the said Act.'

The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Governance Officer left the meeting prior to consideration of this matter.

45 EARLY RETIREMENT/VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY POLICIES

The Lead Member for Resources, Councillor GK Robinson, presented a report relating to the ER/VR policy adopted by Durham County Council, in the lead up to local government reorganisation, and with specific reference to this Council's existing policies relating to Redundancy and Early Retirement, and following consideration of the issues by the Joint Consultative Committee, informed members of the advice received by Counsel in relation to a number of concerns raised by the Joint Consultative Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That this Council adopts Durham County Council's ER/VR policy with immediate effect.
- (2) That Teedale District Council policies not covered by the new policy (e.g relating to compulsory redundancy and salary protection) remain in place so that Teesdale District Council employees suffer no detriment.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm
MD/GR

CHAIRMAN