

106 FINANCIAL POSITION UPDATE

The Lead Member for Resources, Councillor GK Robinson, presented a report which updated members on the position of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 30 September 2008. The outturn position showed a projected overspend of £46,390 against the approved budget deficit of £465,331. Recent budget movements were outlined.

RESOLVED:

That the current position in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan be noted.

107 COUNTY DURHAM ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The Lead Member for Environment, Councillor O Hedley, presented a report for the Executive Committee to receive for information the Annual Monitoring Report for County Durham. All Local Planning Authorities are required to approve and submit an Annual Monitoring Report to the Government before 31 December 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Monitoring Report be received and submitted to the Government by Durham County Council (under the Local Government Review Transitional Arrangements) by 31 December 2008.

108 COUNTY DURHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Lead Member for Environment, Councillor O Hedley, presented a report for the Executive Committee to receive for information the Local Development Scheme for County Durham. All Local Planning Authorities have a statutory requirement placed upon them to prepare and maintain an up to date development plan for their area. The Development Plan comprises the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Local Development Frameworks, and had been prepared jointly by Durham County Council and the District Councils.

RESOLVED:

That the Local Development Scheme be received and submitted to the Government by Durham County Council by the 31 December 2008

109 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

The Lead Member for Housing, Councillor DAR Forster, presented a report which sought approval for the transfer of £40,000 from the Minor Repairs budget to the Disabled Facilities Grants budget. The current budget for this financial year for Disabled Facilities Grants had been fully committed and further applications had now been received. There was a current underspend of £48,338 on the Minor Repair budget due to lack of take up.

RESOLVED:

That £40,000 be transferred from the Minor Repairs budget to the Disabled Facilities Grant budget.

110 TEEDAILE LISTENS

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor EM Walton, presented a report which provided members with a summary of Teesdale Listens visits to date and funding allocated, and which outlined new requests for financial assistance arising out of the project.

RESOLVED:

(1) That progress of Teesdale Listens be noted.

- (2) That a contribution of £1,500 be made to Winston Parish Council towards the cost of demolishing South Cleatlam Hut, the contribution being dependent on the other contributions notified to date being realised.
- (3) That a contribution of £9,000 be made towards works being carried out at Mostyn Terrace to rectify the drainage problems resulting in flooding.
- (4) That a contribution of £2,000 be made to Cockfield Christmas Lights Committee.

111 COMMUTED SUMS & SECTION 106 MONIES:PROPOSALS BY BARNARD CASTLE VISION/BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

The Lead Member for Environment, Councillor O Hedley, presented a report which detailed a proposal which had been jointly prepared by Barnard Castle Town Council and Barnard Castle Vision for the use of commuted sums and Section 106 monies in Barnard Castle. Such monies are payments received from developers following the grant of planning permissions that will place additional strain on public infrastructure. These enable the Council to put in place additional facilities for the benefit of the community.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposal be approved.
- (2) That, if the proposal is not completed by vesting day for the new Unitary Council, the administration of the funds is discussed and agreed with Durham County Council.

112 COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY/COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

The Lead Member for Housing, Councillor DAR Forster, presented a report which proposed the steps to be taken to enable the Council to realise its desired objective to establish a Community Interest Company (CIC) for the purpose of setting up a Community Land Trust (CLT) by 31 March 2009 to enable the delivery of affordable housing.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Consultants are engaged to establish the CIC/CLT and consider all options for the best use of land in developing the business case
- (2) That the use of CLG grant monies to commission Consultants up to the value of £30,000 be approved
- (3) That the options outlined in the report continue to be examined to ensure the Council's priority to provide affordable housing.

113 VALUE ADDED TAX: UPDATE

The Chief Finance Officer referred to the decision by the Government to decrease the rate of VAT by 2.5% as from 1 December 2008 and sought members' instructions on how to administer this change in relation to Council charges.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That there be no change to car park charges.
- (2) That the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to review fees and charges and apply changes, having regard to a de minimis level now agreed.

114 THEMATIC GROUP LEAD MEMBER REPORTS

Members submitted update reports on the progress of the activities being undertaken within each Teesdale Partnership thematic group.

In relation to the Environment and Transport Group report, it was noted that the grant to enable the construction of passing places was in relation to the C171, Lane Head, Hutton Magna.

RESOLVED:

That the updates be noted

115 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the current forward plan

RESOLVED:

That the forward plan be noted.

The Meeting closed at 2:40 pm

MD

CHAIRMAN