

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESTER-LE-STREET

Report of the meeting of Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH3 3UT on Monday, 4 August 2008 at 3.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor L Ebbatson (Leader of the Council)

Councillor L Armstrong, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Value for Money
Councillor M Sekowski, Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Partnerships

Councillor S C L Westrip, (Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services)

Officers: I Forster (Director of Corporate Services), C Potter (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), J Elder (Acting Head of Resources), N Tzamarias (Assistant Director of Development Services), L Dawson (Acting Head of Regeneration), A Stephenson (Executive Assistant) and D Allinson (Democratic Services Assistant)

Also in attendance: One Member of the Public and C Carr (observer)

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C J Jukes and the Chief Executive.

16. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 7 JULY 2008

RESOLVED: "That the minutes of the meeting held 7 July 2008, copies of which had previously been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record."

The Leader proceeded to sign the minutes.

17. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no questions or representatives received from members of the public.

18. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

19. FORWARD PLAN AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Leader introduced the Forward Plan and Work Programme. It was agreed that the date of the Communities Facilities Working Group Report and

the Tenders for the Heart of the Village – Pelton Fell be revised to September 2008.

RESOLVED: “That the Forward Plan and Work Programme be noted and updated accordingly.”

20. EXECUTIVE DECISION TRACKER

Members considered the Decision Tracker and updates were given by the Acting Head of Regeneration on the Development Framework Principles for the Heart of Pelton Fell and Community Resource Centre at Sacriston.

Review of Community Facilities

That it be noted that this item would now be considered in September and that the Decision Tracker be amended accordingly.

New Power to establish Parish Councils (including Town Councils)

The Director of Corporate Services gave a verbal update in relation to the progress that had been made to date including arranged visits to new and existing Town Councils.

It was agreed that this item be deleted from the Decision Tracker and added to the Forward Plan for December 2008.

RESOLVED: “That the Decision Tracker and the amendments be noted.”

21. IMPLEMENTING THE TRANSITION PLAN; DEVELOPING 'PEOPLE AND PLACE'

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Corporate Services to update members on progress made on developing the 'People and Place' Delivery Plan and the key issues on the four Action Learning Sets.

The Leader suggested that a note be sent to the Grounds Maintenance Team and Parish Councils to congratulate them on the work they had done on the flowerbeds around the District.

RESOLVED:

- “1 That the progress to date on implementing the Transition Plan be noted.
- 2 That the progress made in respect of individual progress and comments on the issues raised be noted.”

22. CORPORATE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Corporate Services on the Corporate Training and Development Plan.

The Director of Corporate Services gave an update in relation to the Training and Development Plan. Councillor Westrip spoke in relation to the mental health awareness and first aid training which had been carried out. It was agreed that an evaluation of these training courses should be considered at the Meeting in October 2008.

RESOLVED:

- “1 That the Training and Development Plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
- 2 That, an update on the Plan, including an evaluation of the mental health awareness and first aid training, be considered at the Meeting in October 2008”

23. REVIEW INTO LOCAL WATERCOURSES

RESOLVED: “That this item be deferred until the next Meeting of the Executive.”

24. REVIEW INTO LOCAL TRANSPORT

Consideration was given to a report from the County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Member Network on a review into local transport issues as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Executive proceeded to go through the recommendations set out in the report and outline their comments in relation to each one. It was agreed that the Director of Corporate Services draft a response to the recommendations in the report to include these comments.

RESOLVED:

- “1. That the Review into Local Transport be noted.
2. That a response to the recommendations in the report be drafted by the Director of Corporate Services incorporating the comments made by the Executive.”

The meeting terminated at 4.20 pm