

Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District  
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on  
**MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 2.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Betton                      **CHAIR**

**COUNCILLORS:**

PM Charlton	JM Salter
JH Fergus	KW Stansfield
GK Robinson	EM Walton
O Hedley	

**Also in attendance:** Councillor AJ Cooke  
Mr D Kinch (co-opted member of Overview & Scrutiny  
Committee)

**Officers in Attendance:**

N Stokell	Chief Executive
P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
J Kellett	Chief Finance Officer
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer (Monitoring Officer)
T Watson	Director of Regeneration
R Bowles	Assistant Chief Executive
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

**155 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

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

**156 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors PM Charlton, KW Stansfield and EM Walton declared a personal interest in Item 7: Housing Strategy 2007-2010 (minute 161) as members of Teesdale Housing Association.

**157 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 22 January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**158 FINANCIAL POSITION OVERVIEW**

The Lead Member for Resources, Cllr GK Robinson, presented a report which updated members on the position of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 30 November 2007. The outturn position showed a projected overspend of £26,097 against the approved budget deficit of £34,766.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**159 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS TIMETABLE 2007/2008**

The Lead Member for Resources, Cllr GK Robinson, presented a report asking members to consider the Closure of Accounts timetable for 2007/2008 attached to the report, which had been prepared using the information gained from the previous years closure, updated to reflect lessons learned from that year and taking into account changes to requirements.

**RESOLVED:**

That the closure of accounts timetable 2007/2008 be approved.

**160 GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2008/2009**

The Lead Member for Resources, Cllr GK Robinson, submitted a report which detailed the considerations which had been gone through to prepare a draft budget for 2008/09. The report outlined the process and the various meetings held in order to discuss issues, options and proposals considered in the lead up to the draft budget now presented. The available resources were detailed together with proposed savings and growth items. The provisional settlement for 2008/09 showed an increase of 1.7% for the Council; specific individual grants were also noted. The Chief Finance Officer reported on the robustness of the proposals and the adequacy of the Council's reserves, as required by regulations. Having regard to all considerations, it was proposed that there be no increase in council tax for 2008/09. A proposed capital programme for 2008/09 was also submitted.

Feedback from the consultation meetings with Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Parish Councils/Ratepayers was also given. Members considered, in particular, matters referred by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee concerning charging at the Hole in the Wall car park, cemetery provision in Barnard Castle and information relating to the Council's assets and Section 106 monies; and also that some provision be made to improve health and safety in the lead up to the Spring fair in the Galgate car park.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) That the proposed schedule of fees and charges at Appendix B be approved.
- 2) That Council Tax be not increased for 2008-2009
- 3) That the reserves policy attached at appendix C be approved
- 4) That the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Executive Committee for approving the use of unallocated balances in relation to Local Government reorganisation.
- 5) That the proposed General Fund revenue budget 2008/2009 contained at Appendix D be approved
- 6) That the capital programme at Appendix E be approved
- 7) That the prudential indicators and limits at Appendix F be adopted
- 8) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement within Appendix F that sets out the Council's policy on MRP be approved
- 9) That the treasury management strategy 2008/09 and the treasury prudential indicators contained in the treasury management strategy Appendix G be approved.
- 10) That the investment strategy 2008/09 contained in the treasury management strategy (Appendix G) and the detailed criteria included in Annex G1 be approved.

- 11) That the consultation feedback contained in Appendix H be noted.
- 12) That the proposal to not update the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.
- 13) That in respect of the recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - a) The charges for the Hole in the Wall car park be as now proposed.
  - b) The requested information relating to assets and Section 106 monies be provided.
  - c) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to carry out a review of future cemetery provision in Teesdale, to report by June 2008.
  - d) Consideration be given to any expenditure which may be required in relation to the Galgate car park as and when appropriate.

#### **161 HOUSING STRATEGY 2007-2010**

The Lead Member for Housing, Cllr PM Charlton, presented a report seeking approval for the adoption of the revised and updated Housing Strategy for Teesdale in preparation for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Strategic Housing inspections in March and May 2008 respectively. The report outlined the major issues arising since the last update in February 2007 and proposed how they should be taken account of in the revised strategy.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the final draft of the Housing Strategy be approved, subject to the inclusion of a map showing income inequality levels by ward and to a foreword from the Lead Member of Housing, and referred to Full Council for ratification.

#### **162 RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

The Lead Member for Resources, Cllr GK Robinson, presented a report updating members as to the arrangements in place to manage the corporate risks to the Authority in order to provide assurance that these risks were being considered and managed. The risk management strategy had been revised detailing how risk would be managed within the authority and was attached as an appendix.

##### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the current position with regard to corporate risks and the arrangements made to manage those risks be noted.
- (2) That the revised risk management strategy be approved.
- (3) That the risk appetite, contained within the strategy, be approved.

#### **163 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr EM Walton, presented the draft Sustainable Community Strategy which was currently out to final consultation, having been completely reviewed and subjected to a sustainability appraisal. The consultation closed on 18 February and the final document would be presented to the Council on 27 February.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**164 LSP THEMATIC GROUPS – LEAD MEMBER REPORTS**

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the updates be noted.

**165 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Deputy Leader, Cllr EM Walton, reported on Community Engagement activity during the period September to December 2007. The Corporate PR and Consultation Manager would keep members and senior officers informed on progress in this area.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted

**166 ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

The Lead Member for Resources, Cllr GK Robinson, presented a report which proposed revisions to the Council's anti-fraud and corruption policy for consideration and approval.

**RESOLVED:**

That the strategy be approved

**167 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: TRANSITION PLAN**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, presented a report dealing with issues relating to the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and a Council strategy in response thereto. The work now underway across the county to prepare for reorganisation was outlined, including the level of participation by a number of Council officers. It was felt, in the circumstances, that the Council might need to re-prioritise some matters or change their emphasis in order to satisfactorily accommodate reorganisation activity, whilst still maintaining, as far as possible, a 'business as usual' approach to the District Council's services and responsibilities.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That staff be authorised to undertake the additional work relating to LGR outlined in the report.
- 2) That some existing commitments and expectations as now detailed be discontinued or reduced in scope.
- 3) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Committee, be authorised to make interim arrangements, including the possible retention of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive, to ensure that normal Council business is maintained and that the additional demands upon the Council are met.
- 4) That the costs be met through the use of the budgeted contingency in the first instance and then unallocated balances.

**168 FORWARD PLAN**

The current Forward Plan was presented for information.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

**169 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

*'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 170, 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.'*

**170 ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR CAR PARKING AT QUEEN STREET, BARNARD CASTLE**

The Lead Member for Regeneration, Cllr JH Fergus, presented a report seeking approval for the acquisition of land in Queen Street, Barnard Castle within the area edged red on the plan attached to the report, to facilitate the creation of public car parking provision.

**RESOLVED:**

That approval be given for the utilisation of monies currently allocated under a Section 106 Agreement to acquire an area of land within the site shown on the plan annexed to the report and edged in red in such manner that secures the proper use of such funds in accordance with the Agreement.

The meeting closed at 2.35pm

**CHAIRMAN**