

Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on
MONDAY 19 MAY 2008 AT 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor R Betton **CHAIR**

COUNCILLORS:

JH Fergus	O Hedley
DAR Forster	JM Salter
GK Robinson	

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from EM Walton and KW Stansfield

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

Officers in Attendance:

P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
J Kellett	Chief Finance Officer
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman was asked to consider an additional recommendation within the Teesdale Listens report.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor JM Salter declared a personal interest in item 11: Teesdale Listens minute 13 as ward member for Ingleton.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on 7 April and 7 May 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER ROLES

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, introduced a report asking members to consider the allocation of lead member roles for 2008/09 and to determine any consequent changes to outside body responsibilities which may be necessary.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the appointment of lead members to the roles be agreed as follows

Leader- R Betton
Deputy Leader- EM Walton
Improvement- JM Salter
Regeneration- JH Fergus
Environment- O Hedley
Resources- GK Robinson
Health & Safer Communities- KW Stansfield
Housing- DAR Forster

(2) That Cllr DAR Forster be appointed as the member representative on the Teesdale Partnership Housing working group.

7 FLYPOSTING REVIEW

Councillor AJ Cooke introduced a report, which had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 February 2008, following a fly-posting review undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Environment Panel which was now presented to the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the report be endorsed

(2) That reference be made to guidelines from the Department of Communities and Local Government which provided advice to interested parties.

8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Paul Wilding, Interim Deputy Chief Executive, reported on Community Engagement activity during the period January to March 2008. The Corporate PR and Consultation Manager would keep members and senior officers informed on progress in this area.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9 CORPORATE EQUALITY STRATEGY

The Lead Member for Improvement, Councillor JM Salter, presented a report on the Comprehensive Equality Policy and Combined Equality Scheme 2008-9. The policy had been re-written to better reflect the Council's commitment to promoting equality and eliminating discrimination in the delivery of services, facilities and in employment practice. The policy identified four core aims, which were listed in the report. Corporate Management Team would monitor the delivery of the Equality Policy and Combined Equality Scheme and bring regular updates to the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Comprehensive Equality Policy and Combined Equality Scheme be approved.

10 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 31 March 2008. The outturn position showed a projected underspend of £87,690 against the approved budget deficit of £34,766. It was noted that the closure of the accounts for 2007/08 was not yet complete and that this reported position was likely to change.

RESOLVED:

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

11 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Gk Robinson, presented a report informing the Executive Committee of the Government's promotion of the concept of local authority asset transfer to communities, and seeking to determine a local policy for Teesdale District Council. The issue had arisen in connection with the implementation of local government reorganisation in County Durham and consideration as to whether community assets might be beneficially transferred into local community ownership and control. The

Executive Committee would have absolute discretion in determining those assets that could be considered for transfer.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a policy of transferring assets to community organisations at nil or reduced value be adopted.
- (2) That the policy framework and procedure for such transfers should be as set out in section 7 of the report
- (3) That the Policy becomes part of the Asset Management Plan.

12 LAA SUBMISSION

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, presented a report on the Local Area Agreement, which was now a statutory requirement. Durham County Council are leading on developing the LAA and was obliged to ensure that all partner authorities were involved in the process. Work to develop a new LAA for County Durham started early in 2007. It was expected that the LAA would be formally signed off by the County Council on 23 May 2008 in order to meet the deadline for submission to the Government Office for the North East by 30 May 2008.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the latest draft of the Local Area Agreement submission be received.
- (2) That submission of the LAA to GONE on 30 May 2008 be supported.

13 TEESDALE LISTENS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, presented a report that 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. The Interim Deputy Chief Executive informed members of a request received from Ingleton Parish Council for finance from the Community Fund to provide a temporary surface on a footpath between the playing field and a lane, before the village fete in mid June.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That progress of Teesdale Listens be noted
- (2) That a contribution of £2,960.10 from the Community Improvement Fund to Stainton & Streatlam/Whorlton & Westwick Parish Councils towards the cost of providing a bus shelter at Stainton Grove and a Community Garden at Whorlton be approved, the contribution being dependent on the other contributions notified to date being realised.
- (3) That a contribution of £80 from the Community Improvement Fund to Ingleton Parish Council, for work to be carried out on a footpath, be approved.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

'That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, minutes 15 and 16, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraph 1,2 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the said Act.'

15 COUNCIL TAX WRITE OFFS

The Lead Member for Resources, Councillor GK Robinson, presented a report which detailed an amount of council tax that was not considered recoverable

RESOLVED:

That the amount of council tax, as detailed, be written off.

16 SUNDRY DEBTOR WRITE OFFS

The Lead Member for Resources, Councillor GK Robinson, presented a report which detailed an amount of sundry debt that was not considered recoverable.

RESOLVED:

That the amount of sundry debt, as detailed, be written off.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm

CHAIRMAN

DR/GR