

Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on
MONDAY 16 JUNE 2008 AT 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor EM Walton **CHAIR**

COUNCILLORS:

DAR Forster	JM Salter
O Hedley	KW Stansfield
GK Robinson	

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R Betton, JH Fergus.

Also in attendance: Councillor AJ Cooke, Mr D Kinch.

Officers in Attendance:

N Stokell	Chief Executive
P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
R Bowles	Assistant Chief Executive
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer
T Watson	Director of Regeneration

17 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors KW Stansfield and EM Walton declared a personal interest in the items relating to Local Development Framework Consultation Responses (Minute 22) and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Responses (Minute 23), as members of Teesdale Housing Association. Councillor AJ Cooke declared a prejudicial interest in the item relating to Teesdale Listens (Minute 25), as a member of Stainton & Streatlam Parish Council, and left the meeting whilst the matter was being considered.

19 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on 19 May 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20 FINANCIAL POSITION UPDATE

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 April 2008. The outturn position showed a projected underspend of £25,250 against the approved budget deficit of £465,331. It was noted that the closure of the accounts for 2007/08 was not yet complete and that this reported position could change. The projected balances position as at the end of 2008/09 stood at 21% of required resources.

RESOLVED:

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

21 CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER AND CORPORATE HOMICIDE ACT 2007

The Lead Member for Health & Safer Communities, Councillor KW Stansfield, presented a report which gave details, and discussed the implications, of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, prepared jointly by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and the Council's Health and Safety advisors from Stockton Borough Council. The report outlined measures designed to strengthen the Council's management of, and collective commitment to, its existing and new health and safety obligations.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council's Health and Safety Policy be updated.
3. That an Action Plan be prepared for the Committee's future consideration.
4. That Risk Assessments be updated by Service Heads with the guidance of the Health & Safety Manager with Stockton Borough Council, with whom we have a Service Level Agreement.
5. That appropriate training sessions for employees be held.

22 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Members considered a report which summarised the responses received from the public consultation exercise carried out in November and December 2007 to seek views on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Issues and Options document, approved by the committee in October 2007. The consultation generated 436 comments from 45 respondents: the comments together with a recommended response to each were summarised in an appendix to the report. The majority of comments received related to the issue of Settlement Hierarchy and the need to consider the inclusion of a third Rural Service Centre, centred on the Gaunless Valley, to add to the two initially proposed, Barnard Castle and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Members considered, and accepted, the principle of seeking to identify a third centre, as suggested.

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments received from the consultation on the Core Strategy Issues and Options be noted and the responses, as set out in the appendix, be approved.
2. That the principle of identifying the Gaunless Valley as a key development location in the next stage of the Core Strategy be approved.

23 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT: CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Lead Member for Housing, Councillor DAR Forster, presented a report pursuant to the approval, by the committee in October 2007, of the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation, which had been put on deposit for a six week period. A total of 42 comments had been received from 14 individuals/organisations; these were listed in an appendix, together with a suggested response to each.

Comments received related, in general, to the robustness of the evidence base for underpinning the requirements set out in the document and to the proposal for ensuring that affordable housing requirements were initiated in

the early stages of development discussions by the introduction of a housing pro forma as part of the application documentation.

In view of the closer working across the county in the lead-up to local government reorganisation, it was not proposed to proceed to adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document at this stage.

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments made following the consultation on the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document be noted and the suggested responses as set out in the appendix be approved.
2. That the decision not to move to adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document at the current time be supported and that delegated responsibility be given to the Director of Regeneration to do so should this become necessary.

24 CORPORATE PLAN

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted the draft 2008/09 'Transition Plan' which incorporated the Council's Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plan in this final year for District Councils prior to the establishment, in April 2009, of the new Durham County unitary council. Copies of the draft had been sent to all members of the Council for comment. The finalised plan would be submitted to Council on 30 June for formal approval.

The covering report outlined the stages undertaken throughout the year which had informed the preparation of the plan.

In considering the development of the balanced scorecard for the year, members considered, and supported, a suggestion that an indicator of employment levels (by electoral division or postcode) be included.

RESOLVED:

1. That progress of development of the Corporate Plan, in line with the corporate and budget planning timetable, be noted.
2. That all comments on the draft plan be made to the Assistant Chief Executive by 20 June 2008 to enable the plan to be finalised for submission to Council on 30 June.

25 TEESDALE LISTENS

(Councillor AJ Cooke left the meeting during consideration of this item).

The Chief Executive 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 £300.00 (additional to the grant approved on 19 May 2008) from the Community Improvement Fund be made to Stainton & Streatlam Parish Council towards the cost of installing a safety rail for the bus shelter at Stainton Grove.
3. That a contribution of £4679.09 be made to fund the costs of undertaking preliminary works to start addressing the flooding issue at Mostyn Terrace, Cockfield.

26 LSP THEMATIC GROUP: LEAD MEMBERS REPORTS

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

It was reported that the bid for Leader funding, made jointly by the Economy & Tourism Group and North Pennines AONB, had been approved by One NorthEast.

Progress on the South West Durham Heritage Corridor Management Plan was also considered and members expressed their support for this, in particular for the development of the Green Cycle Route along the line of the disused Barnard Castle to West Auckland railway line.

RESOLVED:

1. That the updates be noted.
2. That the Director of Regeneration inform Durham County Council of this Council's support for the South West Durham Heritage Corridor Management Plan.

27 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the current forward plan

RESOLVED:

That the forward plan be noted.

The Meeting closed at 2:45 pm.

CHAIRMAN

MD/DH