

Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on
MONDAY 14 JULY 2008 AT 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor R Betton **CHAIR**

COUNCILLORS:

DAR Forster
O Hedley

GK Robinson
JM Salter

Apologies for Absence: Councillors JH Fergus, KW Stansfield, EM Walton

Also in attendance: Councillor AJ Cooke, KP Ryman, N Wood
D Kinch and P Spurrell (co-opted members, Overview &
Scrutiny Committee)
Albert Light – Lindal Waste Consultancy Services

Officers in Attendance:

N Stokell	Chief Executive
P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
R Bowles	Assistant Chief Executive
J Kellett	Chief Finance Officer
T Watson	Director of Regeneration
G Hutchinson	Assistant Director (Environmental Services)
H Fryer	Street Care Manager
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

28 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor GK Robinson declared a prejudicial interest in Item 16, part 2 (Housing Benefit Write Offs) and left the meeting whilst the matter was being considered. Councillor R Betton declared a personal interest in Item 5 (Waste Management Strategy) minute 32 as Chairman of Teesdale Conservation Volunteers.

30 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 16 June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

31 IMPROVEMENT & PERFORMANCE BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Improvement & Performance Board meeting held on 10 June 2008 be received.

32 WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Albert Light from Lindal Waste Consultancy Services gave a presentation to members on the Waste Strategy Review which has been developed following the Audit Commission's inspection of Teesdale District Council's Streetcare

services in 2006. The Waste Strategy was produced to establish the strategic direction for the refuse collection service and recycling service. Mr Light highlighted the Key Messages arising from the review and the recommendations and actions the Council needed to take in order to meet the recycling target of 35% by 2010.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Waste Strategy Document be approved and implemented
- (2) That the considerable work of the consultant and the Teesdale District Council staff involved be noted.

33 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor N Wood presented the Overview & Scrutiny's Annual Report 2007/08. The report is produced so that the Council is fully informed about the Committee's achievements. The report is also made available to the public and it is hoped that, by raising awareness of the role of Overview & Scrutiny, the public will be encouraged to get involved and suggest topics for review by the committee.

RESOLVED;

That the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2007/08 be received.

34 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY RURAL POLICING REPORT

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor N Wood presented the Rural Policing Report which was recently undertaken by the O & S Services Panel. The review had arisen out of concerns originally expressed by residents of Evenwood, Ramshaw & Lands and had subsequently been extended to cover the whole of the District. The findings had been discussed with the Police.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the findings of the report be endorsed
- (2) That the report be considered at a future meeting of the Parish Forum
- (3) That a joint press release be made with the Police

35 FINANCIAL POSITION REPORT

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 May 2008. The outturn position showed a projected underspend of £17,680 against the approved budget deficit of £465,331. It was noted that the closure of the accounts for 2007/08 was now complete and the reported position at Appendix A has been amended to show the actual balance brought forward at 31 March 2008.

RESOLVED;

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

36 SECTION 106 MONIES

The Lead Member for Resources, Councillor GK Robinson, provided details of the current position relating to Section 106 monies in the District. Over several years sums of money known as 'commuted sums' have been received by the Council following the grant of planning permission for housing developments. These monies enable the Council to put in place additional facilities such as car parking, play and open spaces for the benefit of the communities within which the new developments are located. There

are time limits by which the money must be spent or it may be reclaimed by the developer.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the report be noted

(2) That officers aim to ensure that the monies are expended prior to vesting day insofar as is possible

37 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008/09

The Lead Member for Resources, Councillor GK Robinson, presented the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2008/09 which had recently been updated following the completion of stock condition surveys and the recently approved asset transfer policy.

RESOLVED:

That the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan for 2008/09 be agreed and recommended to Council for approval.

38 EARLY INTEGRATION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FUNCTION

The Director for Regeneration presented a report requesting members approval to the early integration of all District and County Council work on the production of Local Development Frameworks in anticipation of the forthcoming creation of a unitary authority for County Durham. The Department for Communities and Local Government have now published draft regulations for consultation, which propose an immediate transfer of responsibility for Local Development Framework preparation from the Districts to the County Council. This will also require the transitional authority to submit a revised Local Development Scheme by 30 September, which will replace all existing Local Development Schemes.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the formal cessation of the work on the Teesdale Local Development Framework be agreed

(2) That the early integration of the Local Development Framework function and the creation of an Interim Team including the interim appointment of a Strategic Planning Manager be agreed

39 COMMUNICATIONS QUARTERLY REPORT

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, reported on Community Engagement activity during the period April to June 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

40 NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, informed members that the North East Ambulance Service has announced the decision, as previously proposed, to establish a large regional centre at Hebburn leading to the closure of the satellite centre at Middlesbrough.

RESOLVED:

That the decision be noted.

41 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the current forward plan

RESOLVED:

That the forward plan be noted.

42 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 item of business, minute 42, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the said Act.'

43 HOUSING BENEFIT WRITE OFFS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Betton, presented a report which detailed an amount of Housing and Council Tax benefit that was not considered recoverable

RESOLVED:

That the amount of Housing Benefit, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be written off

Councillor GK Robinson left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

The Meeting closed at 3:15pm.

CHAIRMAN

MD/GR