

Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District
Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on
MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2008 at 2.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor R Betton

CHAIR

COUNCILLORS:

JH Fergus
JM Salter

KW Stansfield
EM Walton

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors O Hedley and GK Robinson.

Also present Councillor K Coates

Officers in Attendance:

N Stokell	Chief Executive
P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer
J Kellett	Chief Finance Officer
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

Prior to the commencement of formal business, the Chairman referred to the death, over the weekend, of Councillor Newton Wood's son, and asked that a letter of condolence be sent to Councillor Wood.

76 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair was notified of an urgent item of business – an application for funding by Barnard Castle Town Council from the Community fund.

77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest from members.

78 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 8 September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

79 IMPROVEMENT & PERFORMANCE BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Improvement & Performance Board held on 9 September 2008 be received.

80 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL: PARTNERSHIPS REPORT

Councillor K Coates, Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Performance Panel, presented the partnership report following the review by Overview & Scrutiny of the Council's key partnerships in relation to value for money. The draft report had been agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on 17 September 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the report be agreed and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked for the work done in this area.

81 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: ASSET REGISTER

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report in respect of Asset Transfers in response to the report agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and referred to this Committee for consideration. Progress has been made over recent months in relation to asset management following the completion of property surveys. A comprehensive asset register has been in place for a number of years for accounting purposes; work is currently underway to produce a full register for asset management purposes that includes all of the minor items contained in the property terrier. Compilation of this information is essential if Town and Parish Councils are to be provided with complete details of all assets in each area, to enable them to consider making applications for the acquisition of any, prior to Local Government Reorganisation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current position relating to asset management be noted
- (2) That Town and Parish Councils be provided with information relating to assets within their area owned by the District Council as soon as this information has been verified.
- (3) That the report from Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted.

82 FINANCIAL POSITION UPDATE

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report which updated members on the position of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 31 July 2008. The outturn position showed a projected overspend of £83,500 against the approved budget deficit of £465,331.

RESOLVED:

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

83 ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

The Chief Finance Officer presented the Annual Report for the financial year 2007/08. The Annual Report provides residents and other stakeholders with a concise and easily understandable version of the Corporate Plan with details of actual performance and achievements, and the Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report for the financial year 2007/08 be approved.

84 SMALL GRANTS FUND

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report requesting approval for the transfer of £5,000 from contingency into the small grants fund for allocation by the Grants Sub-Committee. A significant number of further applications have been received since the budget was approved and it was therefore recommended that the budget for small grants be increased to enable additional grants to be awarded where applications meet the agreed criteria.

RESOLVED:

That £5,000 be transferred from the contingency to the small grants fund.

85 MEMBERS' PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

The Chief Governance Officer presented the Planning Code of Good Practice which had recently been considered by the Planning Committee. A number of issues arising from that meeting were highlighted and a suggested further clarification of the scheme of Public Speaking at Planning Committee was proposed.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Members' Planning Code of Good Practice be approved, together with the proposed clarification of the Public Speaking at Planning Committee scheme.

86 BARNARD CASTLE WEDNESDAY MARKET

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive presented a report informing members of the issues and recommendations arising from a meeting held to consider ways in which the Wednesday Market could be given a boost. It was acknowledged that, to be effective, urgent executive action was required if the position was to be improved prior to the demise of the authority in April 2009.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That charges to stallholders are reduced in accordance with the schedule attached as appendix 1 to the report.
- (2) That the frequency of the Market is maintained but that consultation is undertaken with the stallholders, traders in the town and the public as to the desirability and feasibility of increasing this to include the 3 Saturdays in the month when the monthly Farmers' Market does not take place.
- (3) That the current location of the Market remains.
- (4) That improved traffic management is introduced, as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report.
- (5) That the provision of a 'Portaloo' for the use of stallholders is approved, subject to their agreement.
- (6) That car parking charges at the 'Hole in the Wall' car park are reduced in accordance with appendix 3 of the report.
- (7) That the Trade Press and other means of promoting the Market, such as the local Press and Radio, is utilised.
- (8) That further discussions are held with Barnard Castle Vision and Teesdale Marketing to see if there are other measures that can be introduced to support the Market.
- (9) That additional costs, estimated at £7,500, be met from unallocated balances.

87 THEMATIC GROUP LEAD MEMBER REPORTS

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

RESOLVED:

That the updates be noted

88 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the current forward plan

RESOLVED:

That the forward plan be noted.

89 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM COMMUNITY FUND

Members were asked to consider an application for funding which had been received from Barnard Castle Town Council in respect of Christmas lights.

RESOLVED:

That the application received from Barnard Castle Town Council for £5,000 be approved.

The Meeting closed at 2.30pm.

CHAIRMAN

MD/GR