

IMPROVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
2 December 2008
(2:00 – 3:15pm)

Present:

Councillors:

MM English	GK Robinson
JH Fergus	JM Salter (Chairman)
DAR Forster	A Smith
O Hedley	KW Stansfield
D Metcalfe	K Watson

In attendance: D Kinch (Co-opted member of Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

Apologies: R Betton, EM Walton, N Wood

Officers: P Wilding (Interim Deputy Chief Executive)
J Kellett (Chief Finance Officer)
M Dennis (Chief Governance Officer)
G Pilkington (Housing Strategy Manager)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors KW Stansfield and JM Salter declared personal interests, as members of Teesdale Housing Association, in agenda items 3 and 4: Teesdale Housing Needs and Demand Survey 2008; and Development of Land at Station Terrace, Cotherstone.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2008 were received.

Matters arising:

- 1. Recycling.** It was reported that the suggestion that some recycled materials had been shipped abroad had been investigated. No evidence had been found to substantiate this suggestion.
- 2. Dog Fouling.** Members requested more detailed information on dog fouling 'hot spots'.
- 3. Play Areas.** Members requested clarification of the current ownership and future intentions for Stainton Grove play area.
- 4. Hole in the Wall Car Park.** It was noted that reduced charging had now been implemented, together with other initiatives aimed at improving the Wednesday Market. Improved signage to the Council's car parks was not yet in place.
- 5. Food Premises Inspections.** It was noted that the Council was the first within the county to use the new software.

3 TEESDALE HOUSING NEEDS AND DEMAND SURVEY 2008

Members considered a report which summarised the headline results from a survey undertaken by consultants of all households in the District. The results would inform future housing strategy, including in relation to affordable housing, whilst complementing the Local Development Framework. The final report would be presented to all members on 19 January 2009, prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

Key findings included:

- Teesdale is the least affordable district within County Durham.
- Teesdale is not a self contained market area, being influenced by migration and commuter outflows.
- Demand exceeds supply for all property types. (This finding was queried and will be taken up with the consultants.)

4 DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT STATION TERRACE, COTHERSTONE

The Housing Strategy Manager outlined the present position with this development. The Council decision to proceed with the establishment of a Community Interest Company had been delayed due principally to legal restraints which had now been clarified. Members queried the timescale for this process, given the limited time remaining for the Council prior to local government reorganisation.

5 NEW WORKSHOP PROVISION AT STANTON GROVE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Members were presented with a briefing paper which outlined progress with this development, a joint venture funded by One North East, Durham County Council, European Regional Development Fund and Teesdale District Council for the provision of six new units. Building commenced in June 2008 and was due to complete by the end of December. Durham County Council was handling the letting process and it was expected that all units would all be occupied by the end of March 2009.

6 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME: UPDATE

Members considered an update report on the progress of the Council's Improvement Programme.

Matters raised by members included:

- The collection of green waste across Teesdale and proposals for a uniform county wide service.
- Consultation on the governance arrangements for Action Area Partnerships across the county and the areas where geographical boundaries were still to be determined (including north east Teesdale).
- Proposals for area based committee arrangements (including planning and licensing).

7 CORPORATE PLAN: UPDATE

Members considered an update, as at the end of Quarter 2, on the progress of the Council's corporate plan priorities.

Reference was made, in particular, to the following matters:

- The lack of progress with the Multi Use Games Area at Evenwood and the possibility that this development would not now go ahead.
- Young persons'/children's exercise sessions: funding had now been obtained and this was now progressing.

8 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Members considered a schedule and accompanying report on the Council's performance indicators, as at the end of September.

It was noted that the processing of planning applications indicators were showing an upward trend. It was also intended to continue to closely monitor the housing benefit and council tax benefit indicators and the fly tipping indicator.

A query was raised on the implications for planning committees of recent changes to planning regulations.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

Members considered an update report by the Chief Finance Officer on the corporate risk register, as at 24 November. It was not proposed to make any changes to the existing arrangements for managing risk within the Council, due to the time remaining prior to local government reorganisation.

Members referred to existing arrangements for the provision of legal services. This service had recently been audited and a number of recommendations made.

10 BUDGET MONITORING

The Chief Finance Officer presented the position relating to revenue and capital expenditure and income as at 30 September 2008.

The revenue position showed an expected deficit of £46,390 against the approved budget deficit of £465,331.

The capital programme was currently underspent by £51,305. It was proposed to review the programme in order that the highest priority projects could be identified and these projects be then concentrated on to ensure their completion during the current financial year.

11 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

An update report on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the current year was circulated at the meeting. Members were asked to raise any issues directly with the chair of the committee. An update report was requested for the next meeting.

12 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Members of the Performance Task and Finish Group gave an update on the position relating to planning and environmental health performance indicators, which they had been looking at in conjunction with the relevant lead officers.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: GLAXO

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive advised members of an announcement from Glaxo earlier that day of the intention to cut around 200 jobs from the Barnard Castle site over the next 12 – 18 months. The Council would work with Glaxo, and other agencies, to provide assistance to those who were to lose their jobs.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24 February 2009 at 2:00 pm in the Council Chamber.

MD/14.01.09