

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on **Wednesday, 17 SEPTEMBER** at 5.30 pm

PRESENT: N Wood **Chair**

Councillors:

RA Bell	KJ Hodgson
M Bolden	D Metcalfe
MJ Clark	GM Richardson
K Coates	KP Ryman
MM English	A Smith
JR Hinchcliffe	

Co-opted Members: Mr David Kinch and Mrs Pamela Spurrell

Also in attendance: Councillor MWL Hamilton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors AJ Cooke and K Watson

Officers in attendance:

D Roberts	-	Democratic Services Manager
A Lambert	-	Scrutiny and Member Support Officer

47 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to discuss.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from members.

49 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July, and of the special meeting held on 13 August 2008, be confirmed as accurate records

50 ANALYSIS OF 2008 CPA (Minute 41)

The Chair reported that, pursuant to the above minute, a further analysis of the areas of weakness identified in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2008 had been produced which specified those matters which might be improved by Lead Members in co-operation with Overview & Scrutiny Panel Chairs. The Chair confirmed that Panel Chairs would meet with Lead Members in order to facilitate discussion and focus on improvement.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

51 DRAFT PARTNERSHIPS REPORT

The Chair of the Performance Panel, Councillor K Coates, submitted his panel's draft report on the review of partnerships which had been undertaken over the last few months. The report concluded that all of the partnerships identified in the Council's Corporate Partnership Strategy provided value for money and it was suggested that the unitary authority would benefit from the continuation of these relationships. It was noted that the Interim Deputy Chief Executive had been requested to comment on the report and that any appropriate amendments would be incorporated into the final version.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to any further amendments being agreed, the report be approved and forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration.

52 ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Chair of the Finance Panel, Councillor RA Bell, submitted a report suggesting that work to update the Council's asset register should be given a high priority, particularly in light of local government reorganisation. It was noted that this information would be invaluable to both the new unitary authority and to town or parish councils which might want to consider applying for the transfer of assets.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Chief Finance Officer be requested to seek any additional resources necessary to enable the completion of the register and that the Executive Committee be requested to support this request.
- (b) That the existing draft asset register be forwarded to members on a confidential basis.
- (c) That the asset register be completed and sent to Parish Councils.
- (d) That the Finance Panel monitors the bidding and asset transfer process until the demise of this Council.

53 EMERGENCY CALL OUT

The Chair reported that, on several occasions recently, councillors had been unable to ascertain which officer to contact in respect of certain local issues which had arisen outside normal office hours. It was noted that the Interim Deputy Chief Executive was actively considering establishing an 'after hours' service protocol and that a report was likely to be made to Council in the near future. It was further noted that procedures were already in place to deal with any civil emergency which might arise.

RESOLVED:

That an 'after hours' contact system and procedure be established as soon as possible and communicated to all members.

54 UPDATES FROM PANEL CHAIRS

The Chair of the Environment Panel, Councillor AJ Cooke, submitted a report updating members on the review '*Unauthorised Vehicle Parking, Use of & the Provision and Maintenance of Footpaths/Pavements*'. Meetings had taken place with the Police, Street Care Services and the Area Traffic Manager for Durham County Council. It was noted that the Parish Forum would be updated on progress at the next meeting on 20 October 2008.

The Chair of the Finance Panel, Councillor RA Bell, reported that the panel would meet on Tuesday 23 October to receive a presentation from Lindal Waste Consultancy Services regarding the review of waste collection and recycling services.

The Chair of the Services Panel, Councillor KP Ryman, reported progress on the review being undertaken in respect of an area of improvement identified in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2008. Baseline information was being sought from all members with a view to assessing the level of attendance and contribution being made by members at partnership meetings.

The Chair of the Performance Panel, Councillor K Coates, reported that he had met with the Lead Member for Improvement, Councillor JM Salter, to discuss some of the areas of weakness identified in the CPA report which came under the remit of the panel.

RESOLVED:

That the updates be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.