

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the special meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on **Wednesday, 13 AUGUST** at 5.30 pm

PRESENT: N Wood Chair

Councillors:

RA Bell	KP Ryman
M Bolden	A Smith
MJ Clark	PL Stubbs
K Coates	D Reed
MM English	JR Watson
D Metcalfe	K Watson
GM Richardson	

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors AJ Cooke and JR Hinchcliffe

Officers in attendance:

P Wilding	-	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
D Roberts	-	Democratic Services Manager
A Lambert	-	Scrutiny and Member Support Officer

Also in attendance:

County Councillors PM Charlton, B Harrison and S Hugill

35 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

It was noted that there would be one additional item of business, concerning the human resources implications of LGR for the Council (minute 46).

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from members.

37 CPA REPORT 2008

The Chair welcomed five of Teesdale's County Councillors, who had been invited to the meeting to discuss issues raised in the Council's CPA report, published in June 2008 (see minute 41).

38 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/9

The Chair submitted a report detailing the Committee's proposed work programme for 2008/09. Councillor Richard Bell, in his capacity as Chair of the Finance Panel, updated the Committee on work being undertaken by the Panel. It was noted that the Chief Finance Officer had prepared an asset register which would shortly be circulated to parish councils; a further update

would be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in September.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's work programme for 2008/9 be agreed.

39 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENVIRONMENT PANEL

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee announced the resignation of the Vice-Chair of the Environment Panel, Councillor MM English. Mr D Kinch, co-opted member of the Committee, was then appointed as his replacement.

On behalf of the Chair of the Environment Panel, Mr Kinch presented a draft scoping document for a review of unauthorised vehicle parking and the use of and provision of footpaths/pavements in Teesdale. It was noted that a meeting with the police had been arranged for early September, to discuss the former in particular, and it was emphasised that the County Council, as highway authority, and parish councils would also need to be closely involved in this review.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the outcome of discussions with the police, the scoping document be agreed.

40 MEETING OF COUNTY DURHAM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS

The Chair submitted a report referring to a recent meeting of County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs at which it had been agreed that all the districts and the County would prepare a summary of their work programmes, with particular reference to establishing mechanisms for continuity when the new unitary authority comes into effect in April 2009. In this connection the Interim Deputy Chief Executive referred to a process of 'levelling' of services which might be expected to take place once the unitary authority was in place. The County Council representatives emphasised that they would be seeking parity for Teesdale in terms of service provision; indeed they would be seeking service improvements wherever possible.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at County Durham be requested to consider the 'levelling' aspect of the process of integrating services which would take place post-April 2009.

41 ANALYSIS OF THE CPA REPORT 2008 – RECOMMENDATIONS(Minute 29(a))

The Chair confirmed that, pursuant to the above minute, the recommendations included in the above report had been considered by the Executive Committee. The County Council representatives were given an opportunity to consider the recommendations and their comments were noted. Consideration was also given to the Interim Deputy Chief Executive's response to a number of issues raised in the CPA report (Item 15 – 'Areas for Improvement').

RESOLVED:

That progress be noted and that, if appropriate, the Committee consider means by which it could contribute to *'improving the attendance and contribution of councillors at partnership groups...'*

42 HUMAN RESOURCES

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive presented a report regarding staff consultation and human resources provision during the transition period to LGR, as requested by the Committee (minute 29(a)). The report outlined the mechanisms that had been put in place to address these matters. It was noted that the Co-ordinating Group was considering means of assessing staff satisfaction, including a proposal to issue a questionnaire as a follow-up to the 2007 Staff Survey.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

43 PARTNERSHIP REVIEW – UPDATE

The Chair of the Performance Panel reported that it was anticipated that a draft final report would be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

44 FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – INTERIM REPORT(Minute 20)

The Chair submitted a report, pursuant to the above minute, on action to be taken to update the fire risk assessment for Teesdale House.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and that the action to be taken be noted.

45 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION

'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 46, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraph 1,2 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the said Act.'

46 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS FOR TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive presented a report, first considered by the Executive Committee on 11 August 2008, concerning the demands on the Council of the LGR transition process.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.