

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2007

Present: Councillor C Patching (Chair)
Councillors R Burnip, P J Campbell,
J Haggan, B Joyce, T Longstaff,
Mrs S Mason and D Milsom

1 AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs B A Sloan.

2 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 13 March 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed subject to the following alteration:-

Item 6 – The Darzi Review of Acute Hospital Services North and South of the Tees (AOB) - Paragraph 10 replace 'himself' with 'Councillor Johnson'.

3 MATTERS ARISING
Post Office Consultation
(Minute No 2 refers)

The Scrutiny Support Manager advised that following the District Councils response to the consultation on the future funding and structure arrangements of the Post Office Network correspondence had been received from J. Cummings MP.

Members were advised that J. Cummings noted and shared the concerns of the District Council and had signed an early day motion to resist the proposed reduction in the number of Post Offices.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE held on 20 March 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

Item 5 – Review of Health Services North and South of the Tees – Outcome of the Report of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel

The Chair commented that the reference to the work of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee be noted.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

6 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EAST DURHAM LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny Support Manager which highlighted the findings of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee's review of the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Scrutiny Support Manager advised that the committee had considered a report from the Local Strategic Partnership Manager which detailed and explained the role of the East Durham LSP, its composition, accountability and scrutiny/governance arrangements. A copy of the questions and the LSP Manager's responses were attached at Appendix A. Thereafter, interviews were conducted with the LSP thematic sub-group Chairs. A copy of the questions put to each sub-group Chair and the answer given were also attached to the report at Appendices B–G. Representatives of the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) were also interviewed and a copy of questions put to the CEN representatives and the answers given were attached at Appendix H.

Whilst not forming part of the review's original terms of reference, the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee identified linkages between the work of the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership and the newly established County Durham Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Assistant Chief Executive was subsequently interviewed and a copy of the questions and answers given were attached at Appendix I.

The Scrutiny Support Manager explained that following investigations and interviews a summary and conclusions had been drawn up which concentrated on the agreed Terms of Reference, all of which were outlined in the report.

The Scrutiny Support Manager referred to recommendation 8 and explained that there was a typographic error and 'words' should be replaced by 'wards'. A further recommendation that the report be fed back into the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership in order for them to respond formally to the findings of the committee was suggested.

The Chair thanked the Scrutiny Support Manager and his staff for support given throughout this piece of work together with those organisations who had contributed to the review.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee approve the report and recommendations therein;
- (ii) the report be referred to the Executive for consideration with a further recommendation that the report be referred to the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership for consideration and response.