

COUNCIL

30th September, 2004

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillor Armstrong, Bristow, Copeland, Dixon, Flowers, Foster, Harker, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Haszeldine, Holmes, Hughes, Hutchinson, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, S. Jones, Lawton, Lee, Lewis, Lister, D. Lyonette, J. Lyonette, Maddison Maybrey, McEwan, Newall, Reynolds, Richmond, Roberts, S. Robson, Ruck, A. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Stamford-Bewlay, Stenson, Mrs. Swift, Thistlethwaite, Vasey-Smith, J. Vasey, L. Vasey, G. B. Walker, Wallis, Williams and Wilson. (47).

APOLOGIES - Councillors Mrs. Brown, Burt, Heaney, Long, Nutt, and F. S. Robson. (6)

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillors Mrs. Hart and Councillor Harker declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in Minute 45 below in relation to part of the Cabinet Member with Education Portfolio's report and the Leader's Portfolio report respectively.

41. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council held on 22nd July, 2004.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

42. COUNCILLOR FRED LAWTON – The Mayor welcomed Councillor Lawton to his first Council meeting, following his election as Councillor for North Road Ward in the bye-election held on 17th August, 2004.

43. MR. DAVID ALLAWAY – The Mayor welcomed David Allaway, who was recently appointed to the position of Mayoral Support Officer, to his first Council meeting.

44. ORDER OF SEALING DOCUMENTS – Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

RESOLVED – That the Register of Documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of the Council be signed by the Mayor.

45. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS – (1) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members – The Leader and Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings.

Discussion ensued on the content of the reports and Cabinet Members answered questions thereon.

RESOLVED – That the reports be received.

(2) Draft Procurement Strategy – The Head of Policy submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting the endorsement of the revised Procurement Strategy for Darlington Borough Council (also previously circulated).

The submitted report outlined the necessity to review and revise the Council's existing strategy as a result of increasing Government emphasis on procurement and e-Government; to address a number of weaknesses identified through the CPA Corporate Assessment in December 2002; and to achieve the 2.5 per cent savings identified in the Efficiency Review.

RESOLVED – That the revised Corporate Procurement Strategy be adopted.

REASONS – (a) To ensure that Darlington Borough Council meet the milestones of the National Procurement Strategy and the IEG3 directive.

(b) To help the Council in achieving an 'Excellent' CPA rating.

(3) Town Centre Business Plan – The Director of Development and Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting the approval of those parts of the draft Darlington Town Centre Business Plan (also previously circulated) and annual Action Plan which related to the Council.

The submitted report referred to the extensive consultation undertaken to date; the links to the Community Strategy and other relevant Council policy documents, and the way in which the Town Centre Business Plan would complement the Town Centre Development Strategy and other key Council initiatives.

RESOLVED – That the Council adopt those aspects of the Business Plan which impact on Council responsibilities.

REASONS – (a) To give officers the appropriate authorisation to implement the relevant action points within the Annual Action Plan.

(b) To enhance the vitality and economy of the Town Centre.

(4) Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan – The Director of Development and Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting the consideration and approval of the Council's Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that the Capital Strategy had taken account of the comments received from the Government Office North East (GONE) and Resources Scrutiny Committee and had adopted a more user friendly format aimed at both internal and external users. Reference was also made to the significant amount of development activity taking place in Darlington, involving the Council's assets, which was highlighted through the Asset Management Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan be approved.

REASON – To provide the Council with a Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan to follow when Capital Investment and Asset Management decisions are made.

(5) Cabinet Urgent Decisions – The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing decisions taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

The submitted report outlined the procedure to be followed if decisions were taken under the Urgency Rule and the five decisions taken under that rule since the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 22nd July, 2004.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet be noted.

REASONS – To comply with the Council’s Constitution.

46. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – OVERVIEW REPORTS – The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings.

Discussion ensued on the content of the reports and the Scrutiny Chairs answered questions thereon.

RESOLVED – That the reports be received.

47. PREPARING TO IMPLEMENT THE LICENSING ACT –The Director of Development and Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) advising the Council of its new role as Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and presenting a Draft Licensing Policy (also previously circulated) and Consultation Strategy for approval.

The submitted report outlined the amalgamation of the six existing licensing regimes; the statutory objectives of the Licensing Act 2003; and the organisational arrangements required for the implementation of the Act in February 2004.

RESOLVED – That the draft Licensing Policy be approved for the purpose of statutory consultation.

REASONS – (a) To develop and publish a Licensing Policy in compliance with the Licensing Act 2003 and Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

(b) To state the consultation process to be followed to develop the policy.

48. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – Consideration was given to the membership changes of the Committee, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the Municipal year 2004/05.

RESOLVED – (a) That Councillor Flowers be appointed to Darlington Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) to replace Councillor Hartley.

(b) That Councillor Hartley be appointed to the Local Government Urban Commission to replace Councillor Flowers.

(c) That Councillor Baldwin be appointed to the Planning Applications Committee to replace Councillor Dr. Reynolds.

49. POLICE AUTHORITY QUESTIONS – Councillors Mrs. Scott asked four questions to Councillor Dixon, the nominated Member of the Police Authority, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996, to which Councillor Dixon replied and stated that the Chief Constable had been invited by the Leader of the Council to attend a special meeting of all Council Members to discuss the impact of the reorganisation of the Police Service in Darlington.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE)
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH)
OF DARLINGTON was hereunto affixed)
this Twenty fifth day of November)
two thousand and four in the presence of :-)

Mayor

Borough Solicitor