

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER 2012 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT

Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

OFFICERS

Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

30. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P. Gittins, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

32. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the Members of the Public.

33. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 1st August 2012 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

34. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Warburton, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11th July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 6th July 2012 to the 31st August 2012 and the General Bank Accounts for June and July 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 6th July 2012 to the 31st August 2012 and the General Bank Accounts for June and July 2012 be received.

36. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £2,798.

The following requests for grants / donations had been received:

- (a) Butterwick Children's Hospice - Request for funding.
- (b) Get Set Kids – Request for Funding.
- (c) Peter Steed – Donation for support of his Thai Boxing.
- (d) Vitalise Essential Breaks – Request for funding.
- (e) Neville Community Centre – Donation towards their fund raising.

Letters of Thanks

The following letters of thanks had been received:-

- (a) Citizens Advice Bureau £6,933 donation
- (b) Newton Aycliffe Library £300 donation
- (c) Durham Miners' Association £35 donation
- (d) Aycliffe Care Home £52 donation

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget is currently £3,900.

There had been no further grants to consider.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) Butterwick House Children's Hospice
That an amount of £200 be donated to the Hospice.
- (iii) Get Set Kids
That no donation be made.
- (iv) Peter Steed
That no donation be made.
- (v) Vitalise Essential Breaks
That no donation be made.

(vi) Neville Community Centre

That a Raffle Prize to the value £30 for two meal vouchers at the Oakleaf Sports Complex be donated.

(vii) That the four letters of thanks be received.

(viii) That the information supplied by the Youth Council be received.

37. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE REPORT**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures and voluntary contributions for the two Pre-School Learning Centres.

The post of Pre-School Assistant based at Woodham Burn Pre-School had been filled as agreed by the Personnel Sub-Committee.

Detailed information was submitted in respect of the New Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which is effective from the 1st September 2012. This is an update to the Early Years Foundation Stage which was previously reported upon in 2008. The report set out in great detail what the new EYFS would seek to provide.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received and the information noted.

38. **2013/14 BUDGET SETTING FRAMEWORK AND TIMESCALE**

The Finance Manager submitted a report which set out details of the proposed framework and timetable for the setting of the Council's Revenue and Capital Programme Budgets for 2013/14.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

(i) That the report be received.

(ii) That the framework and timetable for the setting of the Council's 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Budgets be accepted.

39. **LOCALISING SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX**

The Finance Manager submitted a report and consultation paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding Localising of Support for Council Tax. The report set out a summary of the key implications.

A suggested response to the consultation paper was also attached for members consideration.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

(i) That the report be received.

- (ii) That the letter of response as set out in Appendix 3 be forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- (iii) That the National Association of Local Councils and Town and Parish Councils be applauded for their responses of support.

40. **SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

To appoint members to the Service Review Working Group for the municipal Year 2013/14 and to set a date for the first meeting.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the Service Review Working Group consist of 7 members.
- (ii) That the following members be appointed to the Service Review Working Group for the municipal year 2013/14:-

Councillors J.D. Clare, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, B. Haigh, B. Hall and K. Henderson.
- (iii) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Service Review Working Group be appointed at its first meeting.

CHAIRMAN.