

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 19th JANUARY 2011 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors S. Bambridge, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mrs. M. Robinson (Leisure and Environment Assistant)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

81. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T. Hogan and A. Warburton.

82. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

83. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

84. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 8th December 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

85. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 26th November 2010 to the 7th January 2011 and the General Bank Account for November and December 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the accounts control sheets for the period 26th November 2010 to the 7th January 2011 and the General Bank Account for November and December 2010 were received.

86. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report setting out a request for the Council's support of a donation to be considered and issued under the Wellbeing Power. The following application had been received for consideration:

- (i) Mr. P. Steed
- (ii) Letter of Thanks for previous Donation – St. Clare’s Church - £200
- (iii) Aycliffe Youth Council

Information was submitted that the Aycliffe Youth Council had not issued any donations since the last meeting.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) Mr. P. Steed
That an amount of £200 be donated to Mr. P. Steed
- (ii) That the letter of thanks from St. Clare’s Church be received.

NOTE:- The following Councillors have received training in the use of the Wellbeing Power:

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

87. EARLY YEARS LEARNING CENTRES REPORT

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures and voluntary contributions for the two learning centres.

RESOLVED – that the information in the report be received.

88. BURIAL CHARGES

The Works Manager submitted a report seeking members consideration of burial fees and charges for residents of Great Aycliffe who go into residential care outside of the Parish. These residents have lived on the town for many years and indeed have previously buried partners or purchased graves in the Town Cemeteries.

The current policy of the Council means that residents living outside of the council’s area are charged triple fees.

Members considered with sympathy the situation of the current policy and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Officer’s report back to this Committee with a suitable scheme which is equitable and workable for triple fee charges.

89. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT – 2010 / 2011**

The Finance Manager submitted a report giving details of the financial position on the Council's approved Revenue and Capital Programme Budget for the nine months to the 31st December 2010.

The Revenue Budget financial position also included a projection of the expected year end outturn position based on expenditure to date and on known spending commitments over the remainder of the year.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the financial position on the Council's Revenue Budget and projection of expected outturn for 2010 / 2011 be accepted.
- (iii) That the financial position on the Council's Capital Programme be accepted.
- (iv) That the likely movement on the Council's balances be accepted.

90. **2011/12 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to seek approval from Members for the Council's 2011/2012 Revenue and Capital Budget as updated following the consideration and approval of the draft budgets in October.

Approval of the budget will allow the Council's 2011/12 Precept and the Town Council Tax to be set at the meeting of Full Council.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Council's 2011/12 Revenue and Capital Budget as set out in the report and appendices be accepted.
- (iii) That the Council's Precept and Town Council Tax be set at the meeting of the Full Council on the 26th January 2011.

91. **PARISH PLANNING PROCESS**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report giving information on changes to how the production of the Parish Plan was to be updated. The report also set out information with regard to new focus groups and mini ward consultations which were to be organised.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

92. **WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT**

The Leisure and Environment Assistant had submitted a detailed report on the progress in respect of a new Council Website.

The report sought members consideration of the three potential companies which had been shortlisted to undertake a new Website.

Urban River - £16,300
ADS Creative - £7,892
Robson Brown - £8,300

The Town Clerk gave members more detailed information on the evening and the Leisure and Environment Assistant spoke on the more technical side and answered appropriate questions.

Following a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor B. Hall that the officer's recommendation of Urban River as being the company most able to meet the needs in both the short and long term of the Councils requirements for a website be accepted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Company, Urban River, be appointed to produce a Council Website at a cost of £16,300.

93. **IT CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

The Leisure and Environment Assistant had submitted a report giving an update on the delivery of the 2010/11 IT Capital programme.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

CHAIRMAN.