

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010 at 8.15pm.**

**PRESENT**                    **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**  
Councillors S. Bambridge, W.M. Blenkinsopp, 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. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw, A. Warburton.

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

69. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, T. Hogan and Mrs. A. Palmer.

70. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors R.S. Fleming and W.J. Curtis on Agenda Item No. 5 (Charges Working Group) as they are allotment tenants. They would not be leaving the meeting for the discussion thereon.**

71. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

72. **MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73. **CHARGES WORKING GROUP NOTES**

**Declarations of personal interests had been declared by Councillors R.S. Fleming and W.J. Curtis on this item as they are allotment tenants.**

Members asked questions on how the proposed changes to Council charges had been made and the Finance Manager gave a verbal report on how the changes had been made.

It was proposed by Councillor W. Blenkinsopp, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

**RESOLVED** – that the notes and recommendations of the Charges Working Group held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 to the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and the General Bank Account for October 2010 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** – that the accounts control sheets for the period 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 to the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and the General Bank Account for October 2010 were received.

75. **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) Aycliffe Sub Aqua Club
- (ii) 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 that Aycliffe Sub Aqua Club be asked to provide more information in the form of up to date balance sheet and the matter would be considered further at a future meeting.

76. **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.

77. **OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report to provide an update on the planned 2010/11 asset management works for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex toilet refurbishment.

There had been no requirement to seek three quotations for the works due to the cost of the works.

Prices had been obtained from suppliers who previously provided an efficient and cost effective service to the Council.

The report set out the total costs of works as £11,556.30 and this would be funded from the Capital Programme Budget.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the works to the toilet refurbishment at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex be funded from the Capital Programme Budget to an amount of £11,556.30.

## 78. **OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – BEST VALUE REVIEW**

The Town Clerk and Finance Manager had submitted a report to provide a closure of the Best Value Review to include the year end statistics 2009/2010 for comparison purposes. This had previously been requested by the former Best Value Working Group following the completion of the review.

Schedule 1 provided a breakdown of capital investment that had taken place from 2003/2004 to that proposed in 2011/2012.

Schedule 2 provided members with information relating to income and expenditure over the period 2003/2004 to 2009/2010.

Income levels, expenditure and usage statistics were included for members information.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That further reports be submitted to the Council should the usage of individual sports areas decline beyond acceptable levels.
- (iii) That a formal review of the costs and usage of the Sports Complex take place in 2015 and a further in-depth review in 2021.

## 79. **2011/12 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET SETTING UPDATE**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to update Members on progress on the setting of the Council's 2011/2012 Revenue and Capital Budget and requesting that the setting of the Precept is deferred until the January meeting.

The report set out potential changes to the budget since the consideration of the draft budgets at the last cycle of meetings as a result of new developments and adjustments taken into account of the latest position in the current financial year.

The report also set out the latest situation with regard to the setting of the Durham County Council budget and the outstanding issues that need to be taken into account in the setting of the Council's budget including final notification of the Great Aycliffe Tax Base and Double Taxation Grant figures and the possible devolvement of services.

Information was also provided of the outcome of the budget consultation undertaken with the Customer Panel and Youth Council.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Council's 2011/12 Revenue Budget be set at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
- (iii) That the 2011/12 Council Precept and Town Council Tax be set at the meeting of the Full Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

80. **WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT**

The Leisure and Environment Assistant had submitted a report on the progress with the provision of the new Council website for members information.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the information contained in the report be received.
- (ii) That a further report be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee following presentations from website companies.
- (iii) That Councillor W. Curtis be invited to attend the presentation on potential website providers.

**CHAIRMAN.**