

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 26th OCTOBER 2011 at 7.15pm.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp
Mr. G. Wood (Regeneration & Economic Development (DCC))

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

48. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Dalton, Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and W. Iveson.

49. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of personal interest were submitted by Councillors Mrs. K. Hopper, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, V. Crosby and Mrs. D. Bowman on Agenda Item No. 9 – 3(b) (Grants and Donations – Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre) as members of the Youth Centre Management Committee.

50. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp raised a question to the meeting.

Aycliffe Village – Notice Board

Councillor Blenkinsopp asked that the Policy and Resources Committee consider providing money in the budget for a notice board to be sited in Aycliffe Village for community use.

It was agreed that this be taken into consideration when the final budgets are considered.

51. **ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE – NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Graham Wood from the Regeneration and Economic Development Department at Durham County Council to give a presentation on the changing nature of County Durham's economy.

His presentation gave information on the potential growth of the Aycliffe Industrial Estate together with job prospects.

At the conclusion the excellent presentation Mr. Wood answered questions from members of the Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That Mr. Wood be thanked for his attendance and for his informative presentation.
- (ii) That an invitation be made to Mr. Wood to return to a future meeting of the Council in approximately six months time to give an update on the Industrial Estate and the local economy in general.

52. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 21 September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 13th October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor A. Warburton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee held on the 19th October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

55. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 9th September 2011 to the 14th October 2011 and the General Bank Account for September 2011 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the accounts control sheets for the period 9th September 2011 to the 14th October 2011 and the General Bank Account for September 2011 were received.

56. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

Declarations of personal interest were submitted by Councillors Mrs. K. Hopper, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, V. Crosby and Mrs. D. Bowman on Item No. 3(b) (Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre) as members of the Youth Centre Management Committee, however, they would be remaining in the meeting during any discussion.

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £3,365.

The following requests for grants / donations had been received:

- (a) The Parish of Great Aycliffe – St. Andrew’s Church.
- (b) Newton Aycliffe Youth Club.

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget is currently £3,200.

Information had been received that the Youth Council had issued the following grant since the last report:

Royal Air Force Cadets	£300
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RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) The Parish of Great Aycliffe – St. Andrew’s Church
That no donation be given.
- (iii) Newton Aycliffe Youth Club
That the request for a donation be considered by the Newton Aycliffe Youth Council at their next meeting.
- (iv) That the information submitted by the Youth Council be received.

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

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures for the two Pre-School Learning Centres together with information on a donation of toys which had been received.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

58. **EARLY YEARS SERVICE PLAN**

The Early Years’ Officer submitted a report and draft Early Years’ Service Plan for the period September 2011 to August 2012 for members consideration.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Early Years’ Service Plan be accepted.

59. **REVIEW OF CCTV - CONSULTATION**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to advise members of the current consultation that is taking place in regard to the provision of CCTV cameras by Durham County Council.

Members were notified of the cameras which were being considered for removal, as non-strategic, from Durham County Council’s list of maintained cameras within the Great Aycliffe area were:

Oakleaf Sports Complex
Town Council Works Depot
Police Station (Town Centre)

This would mean this Town Council would need to consider entering into an agreement with D.C.C. for their maintenance and monitoring.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That discussions be made with D.C.C. for the maintenance and monitoring of the cameras at the Oakleaf Sports Complex and Work Depot.
- (iii) That the decision to replace the camera situated at the Police Station be left to the discretion of D.C.C.

60. **AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to provide information in response to a letter received from the Agnew Community Centre seeking clarification of ownership.

The report gave historical background information together with information in respect of donations given by the Council in the past.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk inform Agnew Community Centre that this Council has no 'interest' in the current building or land.

61. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – AGM AND CONFERENCE**

Information had been circulated on the dates and costs of attendance at the AGM and Conference of NAC to be held from the 25th November to the 27th November 2011 in Lytham St. Annes.

RESOLVED – that the Council be not represented at this Conference.

62. **NALC – LARGER COUNCILS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION**

Information had been circulated in connection with the Larger Councils' Conference to be held in London on the 30th November 2011 and to consider whether the Council would wish to be represented.

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend this Conference.

63. **2011/12 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to provide members with details of the financial position on the Council's approved Revenue and Capital Programme Budget for the six months to the 30th September 2011.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the half year financial position on the Council's Revenue Budgets and projection of expected outturn for 2011/12 be received.
- (ii) That a further Revenue and Capital Budget Position report would be submitted to the January Policy and Resources Committee detailing the financial position at the 31st December 2011 and an updated projection of expected outturn.

64. **2012/13 DRAFT POLICY AND RESOURCES BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report seeking comments and feedback from members on the draft Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2012/13 in respect of the Policy and Resources Committee and gave a verbal update.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.

65. **2012/13 DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

The Finance Manager submitted a report setting out a summary of the Council's overall draft 2012/13 Revenue and Capital Budget as based on the draft Recreation, Environment and Policy and Resources Committee budgets which had previously been considered by members.

The final Revenue and Capital Budget proposal would be reported to a further meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for approval on the 7th December with the Precept and Council Tax being set at the meeting of the Full Council on the 14th December.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the attached overall summary of the draft 2012/13 Revenue and Capital Budget and the likely level of Precept and Council Tax and the movement on the Council's balances be agreed.
- (iii) That the information be taken into account when considering the individual draft Committee Budgets.

- (iv) That any comments or amendments to the 2012/13 draft Revenue and Capital Budget be submitted to the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of each Committee.
- (v) That the officers be congratulated on the quality of work carried out in preparing financial documents.

66. **MARKET LICENCE FEE REDUCTION**

The Town Clerk and Finance Manager submitted a report following a request from the Newton Aycliffe Market Traders Co-operative for the continuation of the previously agreed £3,000 reduction to the annual licence fee charged in respect of the Town Market.

The report gave background information on the agreement which had been made for a six year period until May 2012.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the continuation of the current reduction of £3,000 in the market licence fee be agreed.
- (iv) That thanks be recorded to the Town Clerk and Finance Manager for their negotiations with the Market Traders.

67. **CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON DATA TRANSPARENCY**

The Management Team had submitted a report giving details of the recently published Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.

The report asked members to consider the publication requirements of the Code and advise Officers as to how it wished the Council to comply with the recommendations.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the information contained in the report be received.

CHAIRMAN.