

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 17th October, 2007.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Bill Noble), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Alex Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Lee Narroway, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: G Garlick (CE); A Baxter (CESC); D E Bond, N Hart (LD); N Schneider (DNS); J Danks, H Dean, J Spittle (R).

Also in attendance: 3 Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Ann Cains, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Ann McCoy, Cllr Julia Roberts, Cllr Allison Trainer, Cllr William Woodhead and Cllr Michael Womphrey.

C 101/07 National Youth Parliament Team Competition - Presentation to St Michael's Roman Catholic School

The Worshipful the Mayor outlined that for the seventh time, St Michael's School had won the National Youth Parliament competition title beating schools including sixth forms from throughout the country. Four young people had also won individual national titles.

The Worshipful the Mayor presented the awards to the young people and staff of St Michael's School.

All Members of the Council joined The Worshipful the Mayor in congratulating the young people and staff of St Michael's School on their success.

C 102/07 Britain in Bloom - Best City/Northumbria in Bloom Gold Medal Award for Best City - Presentation to Care for Your Area Team

The Worshipful the Mayor outlined that since 2004, the Care For Your Area team had brought unprecedented levels of success for the Council.

Since winning their first Northumbria in Bloom trophy for 23 years in 2004, Care For Your Area had gone on to retain the trophy for each of the last 4 years in succession including joining the Gold Medal award winning elite in the 2007 competition along with Durham City and Morpeth.

In 2006, Stockton on Tees were chosen to represent the North East of England in the national Britain in Bloom finals and were awarded a Silver Medal at the first time of entry.

In the 2007 finals in Coventry, in only the 2nd ever time of entry, Care For Your Area won the Britain in Bloom trophy.

The area had benefited from hugely positive regional and national media

interest, bringing further pride for those living, working or visiting the Borough.

The Worshipful the Mayor presented the awards to Richard Bradley (Care For Your Area Service Manager), Maurice Wallas (Supervisor), Les Kulscar and Les Harrison from the workforce.

C
103/07 **Co-op Bank Mayor of the Year competition - Presentation to Councillor Mrs Fletcher**

The Worshipful the Mayor outlined that Councillor Mrs Fletcher had come second in the Co-op Bank Mayor of the Year competition. John Harrison from the Co-op Bank was in attendance and presented the award to Councillor Mrs Fletcher.

C
104/07 **Presentation of Honorary Alderman Status to Mrs Joan Wade**

On behalf of the Council, the Worshipful the Mayor conferred the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Mrs J Wade in recognition of her 24 years of service to local government.

C
105/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee

Councillor Laing declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CSI 5/07 and CSI 9/07 as he was a good friend of an employee at Riverside Leisure.

Cleveland Police Authority Executive - Minutes - Agenda Item 42 - 26th July 2007

Councillor Dixon declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive minutes as a family member was a member of Cleveland Police.

Councillor Larkin declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive minutes due to his employment within Cleveland Police.

C
106/07 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2007 (Minutes 61/07 C - 62/07 C) were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

C
107/07 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2007 (Minutes 63/07 C - 100/07 C) were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

C
108/07 **Public Question Time**

The following question had been submitted by Mr Graeme Robertson for

response by the Leader: -

“Stockton Council Cabinet has declared its support for a Tees Valley Metro system. Given that it will run alongside existing railway lines, what evidence can he cite to demonstrate that a significant reduction in road traffic would arise if the scheme is implemented - what would attract additional rail users to use the Metro alongside those who already travel through the borough by train on the existing lines?”

The Leader responded with:-

"It is important to appreciate that Stockton-on-Tees along with its Tees Valley partner Authorities have agreed to support the Tees Valley Metro "in principle" to enable Network Rail, Tees Valley Regeneration and the local authorities to develop a detailed business case that will inform as to the final form of a Metro and as to whether the Metro scheme is likely to achieve the required benefits in travel terms.

The proposed system is currently examining a scheme that predominantly utilises existing rail lines with additional key stations at several strategic locations, including the Airport, Middlehaven and others. The frequency of the service (which will be double that of the existing train service), greater and improved access to key locations, improved journey times (about 75% of current train journey time), the quality of the vehicles and the overall much improved travel experience are the factors that will influence an increase in patronage. The potential increase will be established using Network Rail's industry models and form a part of any final business case produced. Initial work by consultants indicates an increase in patronage would occur, however in order for us to obtain more robust figures of likely patronage increase we need to now work alongside Network Rail to produce the more stringent business case.

Once that business case is developed the Council will consider the implications to determine the actual level of contribution or support it can bring to the project."

C
109/07

Members' Question Time

The following question was submitted by Councillor Eddy for response by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-

“Can the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People tell me which people, individuals and groups, who were directly involved in the formulation of Stockton’s Building Schools for the Future plan, including area options, which have been presented to members? Please do not include members or groups consulted after formulation.”

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"I know how much Council enjoys the sessions when I outline in great detail the latest and sustained achievements of our young people in the various Key Stage tests and GCSE examinations.

The detail requested by Councillor Eddy would probably take even longer for me to deliver as I named all the individuals as requested but I plan to spare colleagues that treat this evening.

First and foremost, the options that were indicated in the consultation presentation to members do not form the Building Schools for the Future plan. Nor does the consultation document which is now being delivered to households throughout the Borough.

The current round of 'informal' consultation is being carried out to enable the plan to be formulated. The suggested options – and they are no more than that – were developed by the project team, in consultation with the Project Board, all Secondary Head Teachers and all College Principals.

What I can say is that those professional people have identified options which are deliverable under the strict rules governing the BSF programme and which we believe meet the future needs of learners in each of the secondary schools in the Borough. Other ideas from across our community will be used to develop a final plan which will then be subject to statutory consultation.

In addition to the many months of hard work by professional officers and head teachers, all leaders from the political parties were invited to a pre-consultation meeting and there was a member's seminar held – and ideas considered before the document for this round of consultation was signed off.

Members may also like to note that all the Head teachers and principals and the LSC are signed up to these proposed options for consultation. They also agreed to a shared Media Statement which further illustrates their support.

To conclude, there may be other options that come out from this round of consultation that will be considered. Provided these are deliverable options they could be included in a 'strategy for change plan' that will be formulated in consultation with all stakeholder groups early in 2008."

Councillor Eddy asked the following supplementary question:-

"Can you tell me what dealings have they had with the Diocese of Middlesbrough?"

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"The authority has been in touch with all four diocesan authorities which cover our borough in order to win their support for the BSF project. We have been extremely open and tried to provide as much information as possible. As I said before all group leaders were invited to a briefing – only the leader from Cllr Eddy's group failed to make the time."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Woodhouse for response by the Council's Police Authority representative:-

"Can I ask that Councillor Kirton; as the Council's nominated Police Authority representative, look into the possibility of providing finance to equip the police

officers in Central Billingham with mountain bikes in order to study whether more effective policing can be provided in such a diverse area by returning to "old fashioned" policing patrols.

I understand that private monies have already been used in other areas but would the Council's nominated Police Authority representative agree that although private monies are welcome a Council sponsored trial if successful would have greater impact on securing further finances?"

The Council's Police Authority representative responded with:-

"A business case has been put forward by the Stockton Police Team for the purchase of 5 new mountain bikes for the Billingham area. The case has been accepted, they have been ordered with delivery imminent".

**C
110/07 Adult Services & Health Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee held on 6th August 2007 (Minutes ASH 12/07 - ASH 15/07) be confirmed.

**C
111/07 Adult Services & Health Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee held on 3rd September 2007 (Minutes ASH 16/07 - ASH 19/07) be confirmed.

**C
112/07 Appeals & Complaints Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appeals and Complaints Committee held on 6th September 2007 (Minutes ACC 1/07 - ACC 3/07) be received.

**C
113/07 Appointments Panel (Heads of Service) Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appointment Panel (Heads of Service) held on 17th September 2007 (Minutes APP 13/07 - APP 16/07) be confirmed.

**C
114/07 Appointments Panel (Heads of Service) Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appointment Panel (Heads of Service) held on 26th September 2007 (Minutes APP 17/07 - APP 20/07) be confirmed.

**C
115/07 Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee held on 14th August 2007 (Minutes ALC 4/07 - ALC 7/07) be confirmed.

C Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee Minutes

116/07

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee held on 29th August 2007 (Minutes ALC 8/07 - ALC 11/07) be confirmed.

C Audit Committee Minutes

117/07

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Woodhouse and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 20th August 2007 (Minutes A 15/07 - ALC 22/07) be received.

C Audit Committee Minutes

118/07

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Woodhouse and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 26th August 2007 (Minutes A 23/07 - ALC 24/07) be received.

C Cabinet Minutes

119/07

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Cunningham and RESOLVED that the minutes of Cabinet held on 27th September 2007 (Minutes CAB 52/07 - CAB 69/07) be received or confirmed as appropriate.

C Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes

120/07

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 15th August 2007 (Minutes CYP 12/07 - CYP 16/07) be confirmed.

C Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee Minutes

121/07

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee held on 30th July 2007 (Minutes CSI 4/07 - CSI 7/07) be confirmed.

C Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee Minutes

122/07

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee held on 30th August 2007 (Minutes CSI 8/07 - CSI 10/07) be confirmed.

C Education Support Panel Minutes

123/07

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education Support Panel held on 10th September 2007 (Minutes ESP 1/07 - ESP 3/07) be received.

C Employee Appeals Panel Minutes

124/07

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Mrs Nelson and RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Employee Appeal Panel held on 24th August 2007 (Minutes EAP 1/07 - EAP 3/07) be received.

**C
125/07 Employee Appeals Panel Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Mrs Nelson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Employee Appeal Panel held on 26th September 2007 (Minutes EAP 4/07 - EAP 6/07) be received.

**C
126/07 Environment Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Rigg, seconded by Councillor Smith and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Select Committee held on 30th July 2007 (Minutes ENV 4/07 - ENV 7/07) be confirmed.

**C
127/07 Environment Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Rigg, seconded by Councillor Smith and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Select Committee held on 30th September 2007 (Minutes ENV 8/07 - ENV 10/07) be confirmed.

**C
128/07 Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Narroway and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 17th September 2007 (Minutes EXC 21/07 - EXC 30/07) be confirmed.

**C
129/07 Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Walmsley, seconded by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 26th July 2007 (Minutes HCS 8/07 - HCS 11/07) be confirmed.

**C
130/07 Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Walmsley, seconded by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 18th September 2007 (Minutes HCS 12/07 - HCS 16/07) be confirmed.

**C
131/07 Licensing Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Nelson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 11th September 2007 (Minutes L 19/07 - L 27/07) be received.

**C
132/07 Planning Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Patterson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 28th August 2007 (Minutes P 43/07 - P 49/07) be received.

C Planning Committee Minutes

133/07

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Patterson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19th September 2007 (Minutes P 50/07 - P 65/07) be received.

C Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes

134/07

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 20th August 2007 (Minutes RTS 7/07 - RTS 10/07) be confirmed.

C Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes

135/07

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 3rd September 2007 (Minutes RTS 11/07 - RTS 14/07) be confirmed.

C Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes

136/07

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 20th September 2007 (Minutes RTS 15/07 - RTS 20/07) be confirmed.

C Standards Committee Minutes

137/07

Moved by Mr F W Hayes, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 20th September 2007 (Minutes S 39/07 - S 50/07) be received.

C Markets Forum Minutes

138/07

The minutes of the meeting of Markets Forum held on 18th July 2007 were noted.

C Stockton Home Safety Association Minutes

139/07

The minutes of the meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association held on 12th June 2007 were noted.

C Safer Stockton Partnership Minutes

140/07

The minutes of the meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership held on 7th August 2007 were noted.

C Cleveland Police Authority Executive

141/07

The minutes of the meeting of Cleveland Police Authority Executive held on 26th July 2007 were noted.

C Executive Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Vice Chairman

142/07

At its Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2007 the Council approved

the necessary Chairman and Vice Chairman appointments to Committees, Panels and Joint/Outside Bodies for the Municipal year 2007/2008. Following the necessary political changes made at the last meeting of Council, a vacancy existed for the position of Vice Chairman of the Executive Scrutiny Committee. Subsequently, the following nomination had been received, which required approval by Council:-

Executive Scrutiny Committee – Vice Chairman

Nomination:-

Councillor Narroway

RESOLVED that Councillor Narroway be appointed Vice Chairman of Executive Scrutiny Committee.

C 143/07 Forward Plan and Leaders Report

The Leader gave his Report and outlined details of important items in the Forward Plan.

The Leader's Report outlined that the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) were an important element of the inclusive governance arrangements. The Stockton/Middlesbrough Initiative (SMI), the Association of North East Councils (ANEC), Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU), The North East Assembly (NEA) and the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) were determining policy that had a significant impact on the residents of Stockton Borough and Members should have the opportunity to seek information on the decisions made by your representatives.

Some of the major emerging issues included:

Tees Valley Unlimited:

- The Leadership Board, Executive and sub boards were considering the restructuring of the Joint Strategy Unit and the Tees Valley Partnership.
- Negotiation of a Multi Area Agreement (MAA) to seek funding to implement the Tees Valley City Region Business Case:
 - o The three funding streams were:
 - o Regeneration from One NorthEast (£20/year).
 - o Transport funding from the Department of Transport for the bus network improvements and the Tees Valley Metro.
 - o Housing Market renewal funding from the Regional Housing Board and Department for Communities and Local Government (£20m/year).
 - Production of a strategy to develop the renewable energy/low carbon economy in the Tees Valley.

- Business cases for the Bus Network Improvement Scheme (£40m) and the Tees Valley Metro (£140m).
- A business plan for funding for housing market renewal and a bid for Tees Valley as a housing growth point.
- Preparation of employability and high skills strategies for the Tees Valley.

Regionally, the key activity would be the implementation of the Sub National Review (SNR) proposal, notably the governance structures at regional level. In particular, these would be scrutiny arrangements and the transformation of One NorthEast into a strategic organisation, the delegation of delivery to the local authorities and Tees Valley Unlimited, and the content and processes for preparing an integrated regional strategy.

Sub regionally, consultants were undertaking a retail study for both Stockton and Middlesbrough Town Centres to ensure retail policy meets the aspirations of the Stockton/Middlesbrough Initiative and Local Development Framework and further work would look at measures to improve the economic viability of Stockton Town Centre.

The Green Blue Heart master plan had been complete and discussions on future proposals were taking place with land owners, whilst funding approval for enhancements to the Barrage was expected in February 2008. At Bowesfield Riverside, a development brief and Master Plan for the area between Preston Farm and the A66 would take in mixed use business and residential development to maximise the riverside frontage and at Boathouse Lane the student accommodation project on the former SCS site was progressing rapidly.

There were numerous other programmes including the Town Centre Developments at Billingham and Thornaby.

The Leader also drew Members attention to a number of important items in the Forward Plan which would be the subject of reports to Cabinet in the coming months:

- The Carbon Management Programme
- The Draft Joint Waste Management Strategy
- The Environment and Regeneration Select Committee report on the Review of Cemeteries, and
- The review of Home Care Services, together with
- The Transport Network Management Plan, and
- The Housing Futures – Completion of the Option Appraisal

The Leader concluded by outlining that he would be interested in hearing Member's views on the above topics or any other areas of the Council's programme.

