

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 4th March, 2009.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr John Fletcher), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Alex Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Bill Noble, 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 Mrs Allison Trainer, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: D E Bond, P K Bell (LD); M Robinson (DNS); J Danks (R); J Humphreys (CESC).

Also in attendance: Mr F W Hayes (Chairman of the Standards Committee), 4 Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Andrew Larkin and Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson.

C **Declarations of Interest** **304/08**

Councillor Dixon declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 29 - Cleveland Fire Authority minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 9 - Cabinet minutes - CAB 139/08 as he was a Member of Stockton District Advice Information Service and Tristar Homes Board.

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 9 - Cabinet minutes - CAB 139/08 as she was the Chair of Stockton District Advice Information Service.

Councillor Stoker declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 29 - Cleveland Fire Authority minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority and the Local Authority Controlled Company.

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 9 - Cabinet minutes - CAB 140/08 and 145/08 as he was a Member of the Regional Development Agency.

C **Public Question Time** **305/08**

The Director of Law and Democracy informed the Worshipful the Mayor that one Public Question had been received but had been rejected as it was a complaint or grievance and therefore not appropriate as a question for Public Question Time. There was the corporate complaints process and the Director of Law and Democracy had suggested the matter be put through that process. The questioner had been informed that the question had been rejected and of the suggested process that the matter should take and the questioner was happy with the suggested course of action.

C **Members' Question Time**

306/08

The Director of Law and Democracy informed the Worshipful the Mayor that no Members' Questions had been received.

C Minutes

307/08

The minutes of the special meeting of Council held on 21st January 2009 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

C Minutes

308/08

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21st January 2009 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

C Council Tax including Police Precept

309/08

In order to record this decision adequately it was necessary to include lengthy tables of information. Inclusion of such tables currently causes format problems within the e-genda system and because of this it is not possible to reproduce this decision/ minute on e genda in the usual way.

However a word version of the minutes of the meeting is attached or is available by contacting Democratic Services.

C Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee Minutes

310/08

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee held on 8th December 2008 (Minute ALC 25/08 - APP 30/08) be confirmed.

C Cabinet Minutes

311/08

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Laing and RESOLVED that the minutes of Cabinet held on 5th February 2009 (Minute CAB 132/08 - CAB 147/08) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

C Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes

312/08

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 26th November 2008 (Minute CYP 52/08 - CYP 55/08) be confirmed.

C Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes

313/08

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 3rd December 2008 (Minute CYP 56/08 - CYP 61/08) be confirmed.

C
314/08 **Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 14th January 2009 (Minute CYP 62/08 - CYP 66/08) be confirmed.

C
315/08 **Education Support Panel Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Frankland and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education Support Panel held on 13th October 2008 (Minute ESP 1/08 - ESP 3/08) be confirmed.

C
316/08 **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 13th October 2008 (Minute ENV 23/08 - ENV 26/08) be confirmed.

C
317/08 **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 24th November 2008 (Minute ENV 27/08 - ENV 32/08) be confirmed.

C
318/08 **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 19th January 2009 (Minute ENV 33/08 - ENV 37/08) be confirmed.

C
319/08 **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Leckonby and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd December 2008 (Minute EXC 55/08 - EXC 60/08) be received.

C **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

320/08

Moved by Councillor Mrs Trainer, seconded by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 18th December 2008 (Minute HCS 40/08 - HCS 46/08) be confirmed.

**C
321/08 Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Trainer, seconded by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 29th January 2009 (Minute HCS 47/08 - HCS 49/08) be confirmed.

**C
322/08 Licensing Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 20th January 2009 (Minute L 71/08 - L 75/08) be received subject to the following correction:-

Minute L74/08, page 934, fourth paragraph:-

Replace any reference from Mr R T to Mr M P.

**C
323/08 Licensing Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 27th January 2009 (Minute L 76/08 - L 77/08) be received.

**C
324/08 Licensing Sub Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee held on 9th December 2008 (Minute LSC 43/08 - LSC 45/08) be received.

**C
325/08 Licensing Sub Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee held on 5th January 2009 (Minute LSC 46/08 - LSC 48/08) be received.

C **Licensing Sub Committee Minutes**
326/08

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee held on 6th January 2009 (Minute LSC 49/08 - LSC 51/08) be received.

C **Planning Committee Minutes**
327/08

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Gardner and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14th January 2009 (Minute P 136/08 - P 140/08) be received.

C **Planning Committee Minutes**
328/08

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Gardner and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4th February 2009 (Minute P 141/08 - P 148/08) be received.

C **Standards Committee Minutes**
329/08

Moved by Mr F W Hayes, seconded by Councillor Dixon and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 15th January 2009 (Minute S 107/08 - S 116/08) be received subject to the following correction:-

In the list of those present add "Substitute Member" after Councillor Fletcher.

C **Standards Committee Minutes**
330/08

Moved by Mr F W Hayes, seconded by Councillor Dixon and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 12th February 2009 (Minute S 117/08 - S 125/08) be received.

C **Cleveland Fire Authority Minutes**
331/08

The minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 28th November 2008 were noted.

C **Markets Forum Minutes**
332/08

The minutes of the meeting of the Markets Forum held on 12th November 2008

were noted.

C
333/08 **Safer Stockton Partnership Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership held on 16th December 2008 were noted.

C
334/08 **Stockton Home Safety Association Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Stockton Home Safety Association held on 5th August 2008 were noted.

C
335/08 **Stockton Home Safety Association Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Stockton Home Safety Association held on 14th October 2008 were noted.

C
336/08 **Proposed Dispensation for Non-Attendance - Councillor Aggio and Councillor Mrs Trainer**

Members were informed that Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that where a Council Member fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months, to attend any meeting of his/her authority then he/she ceases to be a member of the authority unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period.

Councillor Aggio and Councillor Mrs Trainer were incapacitated due to illness. Councillor Aggio and Councillor Mrs Trainer had requested that Council considered granting them a dispensation.

RESOLVED that Councillor Aggio and Councillor Mrs Trainer be granted a dispensation and remain qualified until such time as they have recovered from illness and are able to attend a meeting of the Council.

C
337/08 **Officer Decision Taken in Consultation with the Mayor**

Consideration was given to a report that informed Members of the following Officer Decision that was taken under urgency provisions in consultation with the Mayor:-

To approve arrangements for the appointment of a Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services and appoint the following members to the Appointments Panel:-

Cllr Ken Lupton
Cllr Bob Cook

Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont
Cllr Steve Nelson
Cllr Bob Gibson
Cllr Dick Cains
Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg
Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile
Cllr Walmsley

At its meeting held on 5th February 2009 Cabinet agreed a recommendation to Council relating to arrangements for the appointment of a Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services (Decision Record attached). Council were due to consider that recommendation at its meeting to be held on 4th March 2009. The position of Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services was a Key post within the Council and it was considered that an appointment should be made as soon as practicable. Having regard to this, and relevant Members' and Officers' diaries, it was considered necessary to hold the shortlisting element of the appointment on 18th February 2009 i.e. ahead of Council's consideration of the issue on 4th March 2009. This would assist in the appointment being made at an earlier stage than would otherwise be possible.

The Panel's membership, identified above, reflected a recommendation from Cabinet and consultation with political groups.

RESOLVED that the Officer Decisions that had been taken in consultation with the Mayor be noted.

C
338/08 **Forward Plan and Leaders Statement**

The Leader of the Council gave his Forward Plan and Leaders Statement.

A tremendous piece of news to open with was a £4,995,250 award from the DCSF's 'myplace' programme, awarded today through the Big Lottery for a youth facility described as "world class". Called the ICE Centre – the name stands for Inspiration, Creativity and Entertainment Centre – it will be built in the Tilery area to provide leisure, social, advice and learning facilities for all 13-19-year-olds and those with disabilities aged up to 25. The new centre should be up and running by 2012.

The Tees Valley city region pilot bid would go to Government on Friday, with the successful city regions announced in April. It proposed:-

- * A joint Board between the Tees Valley authorities, the Homes and Communities Agency and One Northeast to provide strategic direction of housing, economic development and regeneration spending;
- * Joint investment planning with partners with the partners approving project funding locally;
- * An Employment and Skills Board, with strong employer representation and devolved powers to influence providers to meet employer demand.

Heathrow flights: Following BMI's announcement of the withdrawal of its service to Heathrow, the Joint Strategy Unit made a submission on the likely impact on this area to the House of Commons Select Committee which was studying the impact of aviation on the economy. Other actions to lobby on the issue were being examined.

Employment programme: The Tees Valley authorities had submitted a business case to One NorthEast for a two-year £2.2 million programme, developed with other business, employment and skills agencies, to fund:

- * An initiative to provide flexible wage subsidies to help unemployed people into construction, engineering and logistics jobs;
- * Three business and skills development managers to help employers develop job opportunities and raise skills in key sectors;
- * Help for small firms where concerns about employees' health could put their jobs at risk, to find solutions to keep them in work;
- * A joined-up approach to employability by various agencies.

250 people attended the Tees Valley Unlimited conference on its work at Wynyard Hall hearing a keynote speech from Local Government Minister John Healey and visiting projects in the Stockton/Middlesbrough Initiative area.

Enterprise bid: As part of a wider Tees Valley ERDF package – recently announced in the media but not yet confirmed in writing – the Communities Fund and ERDF were to fund extra support to encourage local enterprise over the next three years. Projects included an Enterprise Co-ordinator working with schools and colleges to encourage an enterprise culture amongst young people, with a grant fund for enterprise projects. Enterprise Gateways in the more disadvantaged areas of Stockton, Thornaby and Billingham would promote enterprise, with coaches and mentors providing intensive support. It was expected that the contracts would be awarded in May 2009. A further project would help small businesses overcome perceived barriers to growth, such as VAT registration.

The planning application for NorthShore was registered in February, with determination expected in May 2009.

Homezone: The shortlisted six (out of 108 original submissions) for the RIBA "Make me a Home" competition were interviewed in January, with two for a second time last month. The winner would be announced shortly. Building Design magazine had featured the project and some of the models submitted were exhibited in the Shambles before going to the Cube Gallery in Manchester. Detailed design would begin soon and a reserved matters application would be submitted in the autumn.

The second phase of the £30m Thornaby Town Centre redevelopment was nearly complete, ready for the grand opening on 25 April. The first new shops – Card Factory, Bon Marche and Peacocks – were trading well and national retailers Home Bargains, New Look, Grainger Games and Wilkinson all open this month. Some local retailers had been trading from their new units since

November 2008. Appleby House was currently being demolished as part of Phase 3 with Lidl due to open on its site in August.

The library refurbishment was well under way and the Council's first Customer Service Centre was due to open there on 30th March 2009, followed by the Library itself in late April 2009 for an official opening in May 2009. The Pavilion Leisure Centre refurbishment should be complete by the summer.

Members discussed the Tees Valley City Region pilot bid and it was agreed that Members receive a seminar on the issue.