

Members Advisory Panel-New Constitution

A meeting of Members Advisory Panel-New Constitution was held on Thursday, 6th November, 2008.

Present: Cllr Terry Laing (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Lee Narroway and Cllr Bill Noble

Officers: Margaret Waggott and Michael Henderson (LD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Steve Walmsley

MAP 25/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest declared.

MAP 26/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2008

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

MAP 27/08 Annual Meeting

Members noted that issues surrounding the venue and format for the 2009 Annual meeting, and future years, had been discussed at length by the Panel at previous meetings. Although no consensus had been found at those meetings, a number of venues and format options were identified. Those options had been detailed in a report and that report was now presented to the Panel for consideration.

Members discussed the options, and there was general support for the following format:-

- Council to meet and elect the Mayor and undertake all other necessary business required at its Annual Meeting. Guests would receive an invitation, directing them to an alternative room, for refreshments, at a time estimated for the conclusion of that business.
- At the conclusion of the business part of the Annual Meeting there would be a short break, during which, guests would be invited into the meeting room and a ceremony would be undertaken, to mark the election and installation of the new Mayor.
- At the conclusion of the ceremony the Mayor would invite guests and members to attend the post meeting civic lunch.

The Panel noted that current information indicated that the Billingham Forum would be available at the time of the 2009 Annual Meeting. On that basis the

Panel agreed that the next Annual Meeting should be held at that venue. It was noted, however, that the theatre would not be available for the 2010 meeting.

Members requested that visits be organised to all the venues identified in the report as this would assist the Panel in identifying a suitable venue for 2010, and possibly beyond.

Members felt that the Marquee, referred to in the report, may provide excellent opportunities in the future. It was noted that it may be available to view pre Christmas.

AGREED that :-

1. Cabinet and Council be requested to consider and approve the basic format for future Annual meetings, as described above.
2. the Annual Meeting for 2009 be held in the Billingham Forum.
3. visits be arranged, to the venues identified in report.