



Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

2 February 2009

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Councillors Aiken, Akers-Belcher, Allison, Atkinson, Barker, Brash, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, James, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, A E Lilley, G Lilley, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, McKenna, Dr. Morris, Payne, Plant, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, Wistow, Worthy, Wright, and Young.

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 12th February 2009 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

P Walker
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL AGENDA



12th February 2009

at 7.00 p.m.

in the Council Chamber

1. To receive apologies from absent members.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3. To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business.
4. To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 10.
5. To approve the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 11th December 2008 (copy attached) and 29th January 2009 (to follow) as correct records.
6. Questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meetings of the Council.
7. To answer questions of members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11;
 - (a) Questions to members of the Executive about recent decisions of the Executive (without notice)
 - (b) Questions to members of the Executive and Chairs of Committees and Forums, for which notice has been given.
 - (c) Questions to the appropriate members on Police and Fire Authority issues, for which notice has been given. Minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Police Authority held on 4th November 2008 and the meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 28th November 2008 are attached.

8. To deal with any business required by statute to be done.
 - (i) Special Urgency Decisions
9. To receive any announcements from the Chair, the Mayor, members of the Cabinet or the head of the paid service.
10. To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any scrutiny forum or other committee to which such business was referred for consideration.
11. To receive reports from the Council's committees and working groups other than any overview and scrutiny committee and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
 - (i) Report of Constitution Committee
12. To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, including consideration of reports of the overview and scrutiny committees for debate and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
13. To consider reports from the Executive:-
 - (a) Proposals in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework
 - (i) Medium Term Financial Strategy – Budget and Policy Framework 2009/10-2011/12
 - (b) Proposals for departures from the budget and policy framework
14. To consider any motions in the order in which notice has been received.
15. To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary.

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

11th December 2008

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor C Richardson) presiding:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

COUNCILLORS:

| | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| Aiken | Atkinson | Barker |
| Brash | R W Cook | S Cook |
| Coward | Cranney | Fleet |
| Fleming | Flintoff | Gibbon |
| Griffin | Hall | Hargreaves |
| Hill | Jackson | James |
| Johnson | Kaiser | Lauderdale |
| A Lilley | G Lilley | London |
| McKenna | Dr. Morris | Payne |
| Plant | Preece | Rogan |
| Shaw | Simmons | Sutheran |
| Tumilty | Wallace | Wright |

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement, Property & Public Protection
Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning & Economic Development)
Peter McIntosh, Building Schools for the Future Manager
John Menear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Michael Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Allison, Fenwick, Laffey, A Marshall, Wistow, Worthy, Young

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None

97. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

98. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

99. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council held on the 30th October 2008, having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

100. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

None

101. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- (a) Questions to Members of the Executive about recent decisions of the Executive

None

- (b) Questions to Members of the Executive and Chairs of Committees and Forums, for which Notice has been given

(i) Question from Councillor Allison to the Mayor

"The purpose of Item No:142 of the Cabinet minutes of 14 November 2008 was give as "To consider and respond to the consultation document issued by the Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) on the Strategic Siting Criteria for New Nuclear Power Stations in the UK"

However, the response was actually submitted in advance of the cabinet meeting. It was therefore impossible for Cabinet to "Consider and respond". Rather they "Reviewed the response already made" a totally different thing all together.

As this Consultation was set in motion by a Government White Paper on Nuclear Power issued in January 2008 could the Mayor explain why the response was left to so late in the day that it was unable to be reviewed by elected members before it was submitted?

Could the Mayor explain the procedures in place to prevent this occurrence again?"

In response, the Mayor advised that the Government consultation on the SSA Process and Criteria for new nuclear power stations in the UK did not include anything specific to Hartlepool as it was consulting on the overall process for the delivery of a programme of new nuclear power stations. The relevant consultation paper had actually been issued in the summer of 2008. The Mayor informed Council that a meeting had been held on 22 October 2008 involving the Mayor and the Chief Executive with British Energy. A Members' Seminar had been held on 3rd June 2008 to inform Members of the current position of the UK Government policy on the development of a new nuclear programme, the future plans for the decommissioning of Hartlepool's nuclear power station and the potential for a new nuclear power station in Hartlepool.

The Mayor highlighted that a report recommending the suggested response had been prepared for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 10th November 2008 but the Cabinet meeting was then rescheduled to the 14th November, hence the need for the response to be submitted to the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Allison was not in attendance at the meeting. There were, therefore, no supplementary questions.

(ii) Question from Councillor G Lilley to Councillor Jackson, Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder

'Is it actually illegal to promote a 20mph zone/speed limit without self enforcing traffic calming features?'

Councillor Jackson responded that it was not illegal and the Portfolio Holder had been informed that the Police would not enforce 20 mph speed limits. The issue of 20 mph speed limits had been considered by a Scrutiny Forum 2-3 years ago. The Portfolio presented an extract of Department of Transport

guidelines which state that 20mph limits should be self enforcing with physical traffic calming measures and may not be appropriate for main roads due to the impact on congestion, emergency services and bus routes but other measures can be used to slow speeds and improve road safety. Guidance states also that 20mph limits could be provided by signs alone on roads where recorded speeds are low to start with, but these tended to be areas where the risk of casualties was also lower.

Councillor G Lilley advised that the area he had in mind was on a bus route and was used by heavy vehicles. A desire had been expressed by residents to have 20mph speed limit introduced in their community. Councillor Lilley hoped that any request received from those residents would be given consideration. The Portfolio Holder advised that he would expect the Council's Traffic Division to give due consideration of the request to determine if the area would suit a 20 mph speed limit. Councillor Lilley concluded by speaking in support of physical traffic calming measures.

(iii) Question from Councillor Hargreaves to Councillor Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder

"In light of the outcome of the Haringey inquiry could the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services outline what has been done to review our own policies, practices and procedures in this area? "

Councillor Hill responded that in the light of the outcome of the Haringey enquiry, Children's Services have undertaken several meetings to discuss arrangements for safeguarding children in Hartlepool. Children's Services through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) have benchmarked local practice against the serious case review findings from Haringey. Other partner agencies of the LSCB have been asked to provide information to the Board on their arrangements in the light of the Baby P findings.

It was highlighted that arrangements for safeguarding individual children are managed through the multi agency child protection procedures. Hartlepool LSCB procedures were last produced in 2006 and reflect the latest Government statutory guidance 'Working Together the Safeguard Children' 2006. These procedures outline the action to be taken in the event that there are concerns about the protection and welfare of a child from the point of the concern being identified through to making arrangements for the child to become subject to a protection plan. It is the intention to revise the procedures in 2009/10 but this timescale will depend upon whether a new edition of Working Together will be issued in 2009 and if so, the revision will be completed following the publication.

The work of the Local Safeguarding Board is being strengthened. A development day which has been planned for some time will take place on 14 January 2009; this event, amongst other things, will prepare the LSCB work plan for 2009/10 reflecting local priorities and put in place a programme of audit work to monitor the quality of multi agency practice.

Since the publication of the Haringey Joint Area Review work has commenced to review local practice in the light of the findings and recommendations of the Ofsted report. The audit of practice will identify any areas that require further work and arrangements put in place to ensure that any gaps are swiftly and robustly addressed. Earlier in the year a case file audit was completed by an independent consultant and an action plan developed to implement the recommendations of the audit. These two pieces of work are being brought together.

In the week commencing 17 November 08, two staff briefings were held for social work staff with key messages delivered to staff reflecting the findings of the Baby P enquiry. Staff considered social work practice locally and the risks and enablers associated with their work. All staff have been informed of the fact that safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility and to escalate up the line any concerns regarding individual children.

The Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Specialist Services receives monthly information in relation to social workers caseloads and monitoring arrangements are in place.

Arrangements have been put in place to strengthen reporting of safeguarding information to the Chief Executive and Children's Services portfolio holder. From January 2009, the portfolio holder will receive quarterly reports on arrangements for safeguarding children in Hartlepool. A Members Seminar will be held in the spring of 2009 on safeguarding and the role of the Corporate Parent.

There are robust procedures in place to ensure that children are effectively safeguarded in Hartlepool, however no local authority can afford to be complacent as child deaths as a result of abuse and neglect sadly still occur. In order to further strengthen practice in Hartlepool, the following service developments are underway:

- The development of a Practice Manual which is web based and will deliver a comprehensive manual for staff in all their work with children and their families from referral to case closure including guidance on ensuring processes are well recorded in the new electronic social care record, the Integrated Children's System (ICS);
- An 18 month rolling training programme delivering, amongst other things, updated mandatory training in the areas of assessment and care planning, parenting the public child and professional supervision, performance management and quality assurance for managers;
- The development of a new quality assurance and audit process for use by team and senior managers which will reflect the move to the ICS electronic record

The death of baby P has had a huge impact on children's services and is a harsh reminder of the challenges facing those working in safeguarding and making judgments on the safety of children and thresholds for action. No guarantees can be given that a child death as a result of abuse or neglect could not happen locally however, every action is being taken to ensure that robust

procedures and arrangements are in place for safeguarding children and that practice in children's services is as safe as it can be.

As future planned reports regarding safeguarding arrangements are made public by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, procedures and practice will be reviewed to ensure that the authority is compliant with the requirements of the Government and providing practitioners in Hartlepool with the tools they need to successfully safeguard children and work with families.

Councillor Hargreaves thanked the Portfolio Holder for the detailed response and commended the Children's Services Department on the swift action which had been taken by the Department.

(iv) Question from Councillor Allison to the Mayor

"The purpose of Item No: 145 of the Cabinet minutes of 14 November 2008 was given as " To inform Cabinet of the contents of reports prepared by external advisors following a review of job evaluation assessment and grading for senior management posts in the Council. To seek Cabinet's decision regarding the implementation of the advisors' recommendations."

Despite repeated formal requests by me I have been unable to obtain information about the report or this Cabinet decision.

Could the Mayor explain why he feels it is necessary to deny the information in this report to Non-Executive Councillors? The authority to spend the half millions pounds the consultants are receiving as a fee was a special deviation from the Council's budget and required approval of Full Council. There was considerable discussion prior to the spending being approved and I, for one, would never have agreed to the money being spent if it had been made clear that although our approval was required to spend the money we (as none executive councillors) would be denied access to the results of the investigations.

Could the Mayor also explain why he (and a Majority of his cabinet) obviously feels secrecy and behind closed doors meetings are preferable to openness, transparency and inclusiveness in Hartlepool Council?"

In responding to the question, the Mayor highlighted that regardless of the type of meeting, it was at the discretion of the Chairman to ask somebody to leave the meeting. He referred also to the number of questions he had answered previously on 'pink papers'. The Mayor highlighted also that the minutes and decision record of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 December had not yet been published.

It was noted that the Senior Management Review is a matter which falls under the exempt information provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. The report provided through external consultants was provided to the authority on a "confidential" basis. It was also the case that matters relating to Chief Officer remuneration "will generally be dealt with in

private session”, which was a theme contained within the Borough Council’s own ‘Remuneration Strategy’ document. The Mayor was, therefore, reassured that Cllr Allison had not been able to obtain information included within the report.

In terms of the specific question, the reason given to Councillor Allison was that in order to conduct the remaining business, which commenced at the meeting on 14 November 2008, Councillor Allison was required to leave the meeting, particularly as he had not been present during the previous consideration.

Dealing with the final part of the question, the Mayor highlighted that the half million pounds referred to by Councillor Allison related to Business Transformation and not the Senior Management Review. It was noted that the Council would not incur any costs for the Review.

There were no supplementary questions as Councillor Allison was not present at the meeting.

Members of the Council made comments upon issues raised by the question.

- (c) Questions to the appropriate Members on Police and Fire Authority issues, for which notice has been given.

None

Minutes of the meetings of the Cleveland Police Authority held on 17th September 2008 and 30th September 2008 and the meetings of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 26th September 2008 were submitted.

102. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

- (i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions

It was noted that no decisions had been taken in respect of the period October 2007 -September 2008

103. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Councillor Brash, Leader of the Labour Group, which requested an extraordinary meeting of Council to debate the serious issue of housing in Hartlepool. The Chairman advised that he had agreed to the extraordinary meeting and that the meeting would be held as soon as practicable.

104. TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS (IF ANY) REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING AND TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF ANY SCRUTINY FORUM OR OTHER COMMITTEE TO WHICH SUCH BUSINESS WAS REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION.

(i) Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – Report of Executive

A report was presented by the Mayor, on behalf of the Executive, to update Council on the requirements relating to the finalisation of the Section 151 letter to be included in the Building Schools for the Future Outline Business Case.

At its meeting on 30th October, 2008 Council resolved to delegate authority to Cabinet and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to finalise the Section 151 letter to be included in the BSF Outline Business Case (OBC). This report proposed the following funding strategy showing the order in which funding will be used if there is a funding shortfall:-

- Capital receipts generated from the sales of surplus school assets arising from the implementation of BSF;
- Capital receipts generated from the sale of other Children's Services assets;
- Prudential borrowing funded by secondary schools (this would require Schools Forum approval and potentially Department for Children's, Schools and Families approval);
- Prudential borrowing funded from the Council's own budget

Council had also resolved that in the event of a funding shortfall a report on the measures to address such a shortfall be submitted to Council for debate.

Further clarification on the requirements of OBC and the Section 151 letter had recently been received and the Authority was required to provide clarification on how any shortfall would be funded and the level of provision the Authority had made for a contingency in the OBC.

It was noted that these additional requirements did not affect the previous strategy outlined above for funding any shortfall, however Partnership for Schools (PFS) require a value to be placed on the options for addressing the shortfall and level of contingency provided. A shortfall of £0.9m had been identified and the latest guidance from PFS indicated that the Authority needed to demonstrate the OBC included an appropriate level of contingency.

It was stressed at this stage that this contingency may not be needed and it was included to demonstrate that the Authority had made adequate provision for any additional risk. Therefore in order for the Chief Financial Officer to sign the OBC, Members were requested to re-endorse the principles set out in the report and approve a maximum prudential borrowing limit of £2m as a backstop, in the event that Capital Receipts were received later than anticipated, or the other funding did not materialise. This amount would cover the identified shortfall of £0.9m and provide a £1.1m contingency if needed.

RESOLVED – That to enable the Chief Financial Officer to sign the Section 151 letter, the funding strategy detailed in the report was confirmed and a maximum prudential borrowing limit of £2m was approved as a backstop, in the event that Capital Receipts are received later than anticipated, or the other funding does not materialise as listed in the report. Approval was given subject to a debate by full Council prior to the implementation of the funding decision.

105. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

(i) Report of General Purposes Committee – Council Election by Thirds

The Chair of the General Purposes Committee presented a report which advised Members that on 14th February, 2008, Council had received a Motion on Notice relating to the current electoral scheme and that "Council debates and recognises that major budgetary savings could be made by holding whole council elections once every four years". Following an addendum to that Motion, it was moved and seconded "that the General Purposes Committee, complete its good work in investigating this issue and report back to full Council". Following the referral from Council, the General Purposes Committee had met on the 4th July, 22nd August and 14th November. The report updated Members on information submitted, and discussions held, at those meetings. Appended to the report were indicative costs of consultation which had been considered by the Committee on 22nd August 2008.

The report highlighted that consultation with other Councils who currently hold "all out" elections had indicated that around 3-4 by-elections occur during the intervening period between elections. The average cost of any by-election would be £6000 but was dependent upon the number of polling stations in the ward in question. Further, it was clearly noted, that any move to alter the current arrangements, would require considerations other than matters of cost. Indeed, it was noted that issues such as community engagement, staff skills and training and a "democratic deficit issue", needed to be considered.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 enabled a local authority to change their electoral scheme. However, the provisions required a process of consultation to be followed. There was also the stipulation of certain periods during which a resolution may be passed and at which point a resolution will be capable of implementation, so as to ensure that the implementation fell in line with the ordinary day of elections for authorities of the type to which the change was made. Any change needed to be approved by Council at a meeting specially convened for that purpose and be carried by a two thirds majority.

It was noted that it was a requirement under the Act that before a Council can proceed to a resolution for whole Council elections it must have "*taken reasonable steps to consult such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change*". (Section 34(2) of the Act refers). Although, the extent of any

consultation was not prescribed within the Act, the Cabinet Office has issued a “Code of Practice on consultations”. Within that consultation document, were six consultation criteria, which were presented in the report.

It was noted also that the Cabinet Office document did not have legal force, and therefore cannot prevail over statutory or mandatory requirements. However, its use and application was encouraged on aspects of consultation by public authorities. The Electoral Commission had indicated, although the same is not prescribed, that consultation should be “all encompassing”, a view endorsed by Members of the General Purposes Committee at their meeting on 4 July, 2008.

At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 22 August, 2008, Members requested a report be submitted to Cabinet to seek its views on the proposed consultation and the possible identification of an appropriate budget. In their discussions, Cabinet endorsed the view of the Committee that any consultation “needed to reach everyone”. Consequently, on the likely expenditure of costs, the pertinent indication of costs related to that which involved consulting with “all electors”, approximately 69,000 individuals. However, Cabinet were concerned of the level of costs associated with such an exercise, when the existing system of election “by thirds” did not appear to warrant change. It was also suggested (although not within the remit of the matter before General Purposes) that any consultation on changes to the electoral system should cover the issue of whether there should be ‘Single Member Wards’. Given the views expressed by Cabinet, no specific budget provision was identified in relation to undertaking any form of consultation.

Moved and Seconded:-

“That no further action be taken”.

Moved and Seconded:-

“That a recorded vote be taken”

Members of the Council made comments upon issues raised by the report.

The taking of a recorded vote was agreed.

Motion put –

“That no further action be taken”.

Those in favour of the motion:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillors Aiken, Atkinson, Brash, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fleet, Fleming, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Jackson, James, Johnson, Kaiser, Lauderdale, McKenna, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Tumilty and Wallace,

Those against the motion – Councillors Barker, Flintoff, Gibbon, Hill, A Lilley, G Lilley, London, Preece, Plant and Wright.

Those who abstained – None

Motion Carried.

106. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS SPECIFIED IN THE SUMMONS
OF THE MEETING

None

107. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

(a) Proposals in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework

None

(b) Proposal for Departure from the Budget and Policy Framework

(i) Report of Executive – Stagecoach Services 1, 6, 7 and 7a-Supported
Contracts and the Health Bus Service – Funding Requirements

A report was presented, on behalf of the Executive, which recommended that Council approve the supporting of services 1, 6, 7 and 7A (Sundays to Thursdays after 18:30hrs and, in the case of Service 1 on every evening after 18:30hrs and all day on Sundays) and the Health Bus until 31 March 2009 with the costs being met from General Fund Balances.

At the meeting of Cabinet on 4th August 2008 Members were advised that Stagecoach were proposing to withdraw the bulk of their evening services from the 23rd August 2008, due to the fact that they were no longer commercial. Stagecoach had expressed their concern at the ongoing decline in the adult fare-paying market which they stated had struck at the heart of the viability of their present network.

All Cabinet Members had expressed their grave concerns at what they saw as manipulative practices by Stagecoach in withdrawing services as being unprofitable and looking to the local authority to pick up the base cost of the service through a contract. The report detailed quotations that had been received from Stagecoach as to the cost of retaining the services on a supported basis until August 2009 these being: -

Service 1 £42,971
Service 6 £20,148
Service 7/7A £16,502

Members agreed to support the Stagecoach Services until 31st March 2009 and requested that a report be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting setting out the

funding arrangements for the services. At the meeting of Cabinet on 14th November 2008 a report was submitted to update Members as to the potential costs of supporting both the Stagecoach services detailed above and the Health Bus Service, that had been operating as a joint venture between Hartlepool Borough Council, the Primary Care Trust and the National Health Service between Hartlepool and North Tees Hospitals, until the 31st March 2009.

Cabinet had recommended that Council approve the supporting of services 1, 6, 7 and 7A (Sundays to Thursdays after 18:30hrs and, in the case of Service 1 on every evening after 18:30hrs and all day on Sundays) and the Health Bus until 31 March 2009 with the costs being met from the General Fund. With regard to the Stagecoach services payments are made to Operators in 13 monthly instalments. This being the case if the services were supported until March 2009 the total payment required will be £48,998. With regard to the Health Bus the total cost of the service to operate up to the 31st March 2009 will be £44,309. The total amount needed to support all services is £93,307

Members were reminded that it was anticipated there would be an over-spend on departmental budgets at the year end. In addition, whilst the Council would benefit from increased investment income in the current year this amount had provisionally been allocated within the budget strategy report to offset the loss of income, then for additional costs in relation to Building Schools for the Future and Tall Ships. Therefore, it was not anticipated there would be resources available from the current year's budget to fund bus service payments and an alternative funding source will need to be identified. As reported to Cabinet on 13th October 2008 the level of uncommitted General Fund Balances is £0.79m. This amount, together with other one off funding, had provisionally been allocated within the budget strategy report to partly fund the budget deficits over the next three years. These one off resources would not fund the whole of the budget gap. Cabinet had determined to seek Council's approval to use these one off resources to fund the cost of supporting bus services. This proposal would reduce the funds available to support the revenue budget over the next three years, which would make balancing the budget more difficult.

Members echoed the grave concerns expressed by Cabinet and reiterated concerns expressed at the Council meeting, held on 31 July 2008, regarding the effect of de-regulation of bus services.

RESOLVED – That the supporting of services 1, 6, 7 and 7A (Sundays to Thursdays after 18:30hrs and, in the case of Service 1 on every evening after 18:30hrs and all day on Sundays) and the Health Bus until 31 March 2009 be approved with the costs being met from General Fund Balances.

108. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None

109. NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST RE-LOCATION OF THE AMBULANCE CONTACT CENTRE IN MIDDLESBROUGH - REFERRAL OF DECISION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH

The Chief Executive reported that as outlined to Members in correspondence dated 6 November 2008, the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee, at its meeting on 11 July 2008, had agreed to refer the North East Ambulance Trust's decision to re-locate the Ambulance Contact Centre in Middlesbrough to Monkton, South Tyneside to the Secretary of State for Health.

Upon receipt of the referral, the Secretary of State had requested that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) undertake an initial review of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee's proposals / concerns. The results of this review had been reported to the Secretary of State on 30 September 2008 and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee on the 4 November 2008.

In summary, based upon the outcome of the review, the Secretary of State had concluded that he fully supported the IRP's recommendations for the NHS to now:-

- i) Replace the current working model of the single contact centre in Newcastle plus its satellite centre in Middlesbrough and the back up control facility at NHS Direct with two operational contact centres;
- ii) Locate one contact centre in Newcastle (on the site of the North East Ambulance Service) and the other in South Hebburn, South Tyneside; and
- iii) Use both contact centres daily, to ensure a continuous and uninterrupted service in the event of disruption on one site.

The Secretary of State had also indicated that he was satisfied that the IRP's recommendations were the way forward and he hoped that the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee would now work with partners to ensure that the proposals were fully implemented. At the most recent meeting of the Tees Valley Health Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 13 November 2008, consideration had been given to Secretary of State's decision. Given the strength of feeling expressed by the Committee, it was unanimously agreed that a further letter be sent to the Secretary of State reiterating their concerns of public safety not being fully addressed and seeking clarification on the criteria the IRP used, having recommended that a full review not be undertaken. Such letter was despatched to the Secretary of State for Health on 19 November 2008 and upon receipt of his response, a copy would be distributed to all Members for information.

Copies of all letters had been placed in the Members Library with individual copies available from the Scrutiny Support Team if required.

Following concerns expressed regarding the conclusion reached by the Secretary of State, the Mayor informed Members that the possibility of a Judicial

Review funded by Tees Valley Authorities was being considered. Members expressed their support for being involved in a Judicial Review funded by Tees Valley Authorities.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

110. TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Chief Executive presented a comprehensive report which updated Members on matters relating to treasury management, sought consideration of proposals for revising the existing Treasury Management Strategy to respond effectively to the current economic environment and sought approval for changes to the Prudential Indicators relating to borrowing.

Members were advised that the economic position had deteriorated to a much greater extent than anticipated when the original treasury strategy had been approved. The economic downturn now looked set to be more severe and last longer than was originally expected. Some of the key events which had occurred in the previous three months were set out in the report. As a result of the economic conditions, the Council would receive lower investment returns in the future. The Council was partially protected from this reduction in interest rates in the current year, because of the fixed deposits taken out before the drastic reduction to interest rates. However as these deposits mature, the rates available for new investments would be much lower. At the same time the level of investments would also reduce as resources are used to support the revenue budget, job evaluation and Building Schools for the Future. Fortunately the Council did not budget for the whole of this investment income in the base budget. However, the loss of this income would significantly reduce the Council's flexibility and its ability to manage in year budget pressures. It was estimated that the reduction in investment returns would be £1.5m. This could increase by a further £0.5m if interest rates fell to 2%.

The Council's borrowing and investment position as at 27th November 2008 was set out in the report. During the first half of 2008/09 the Council had taken advantage of reducing longer term borrowing rates and borrowed £2.5m at 3.21%. Since then shorter period long term PWLB rates had reduced further. The Council was currently under-borrowed in relation to its Capital Finance Requirement (CFR) which was £76.3m as at 31 March 2008. The Chief Financial Officer, under delegated powers, would take the most appropriate form of borrowing in terms of whether market or PWLB, depending on the prevailing interest rates at the time. Borrowing may also be considered to fund capital expenditure in advance of future year's requirements.

The level of investments as at 21 November 2008 was reported as £56.9m. Members were assured that the Council had taken a prudent approach to managing its investments and institutions had only been included on the approved investment list after careful assessment. The criteria determining whether a counterparty was eligible for inclusion on the lending list had been approved by Council in February 2008.

During the year, the Chief Financial Officer had used his delegated powers to further tighten the lending criteria in response to the deteriorating economic conditions and events caused by the Global 'credit crunch'. These actions reflected the Chief Finance Officer's assessment of risk which was particularly important as credit ratings were not a guarantee of an organisation's financial strength and could only provide a starting point for assessing risk. Actions taken by the Chief Financial Officer were detailed in the report.

In response to the extreme uncertainties and risks resulting from the global 'credit crunch', the Council needed flexibility to take advantage of opportunities arising where maximum security could be obtained to reduce the risk of financial loss, while still benefitting from competitive rates of return. Changes to the Council's investment strategy were proposed, as set out in the report:

The Council currently provides a treasury management service as part of a Service Level Agreement to the Cleveland Fire Authority. As a result of this existing collaboration, both organisations share the same Treasury Management Strategies and approved investment counter-parties. The only material difference is that the Fire Authority has lower limits for the maximum investment with each counter-party. In view of the existing arrangements the potential benefit of pooling the investments of the CFA and HBC had been examined. This would require approval by both the Council and the Fire Authority. Under such an arrangement the Council would manage a single "Investment Fund" equal to the aggregate value of the two organisations cash balances. This amount would then be invested in accordance with the existing Treasury Management Strategy and Hartlepool's counter-party limits. Each organisation would then be allocated an appropriate share of the investment with each counter-party based on their share of the overall "investment fund". On the basis of current investment levels 5/6th of the investment fund would relate to the Council and 1/6th to the Fire Authority. Both organisations would earn interest at the average rate of all investments. In the unlikely event of a default, the loss would be shared in proportion to the total level of funds pooled. A key advantage of this arrangement is that it will enable the Council to further diversify investments and reduce the value of investments with each counter-party. This will become even more important when the amount of funds invested reduces and it becomes more difficult to achieve a wide spread of risk.

As part of the treasury strategy for 2007/2008, the Council set a number of prudential indicators. Compliance against these indicators is monitored on a regular basis. Where there is a need to revise these limits, approval is required by full Council. One item to bring to Members attention related to the Central Hartlepool Housing Regeneration Scheme. The scheme is currently showing as spending according to budget. However, Officers have been made aware of the possibility of additional funding becoming available which the Council would be in a stronger position to secure if it was able to accelerate expenditure on house purchases. It is proposed that Council approve additional temporary prudential borrowing of £1.5m to fund this additional expenditure as a contingency in the event that additional grant funding is not obtained. This prudential borrowing will not result in an unbudgeted pressure as it is expected that the resulting capital financing costs would be met by the capital grant. It was therefore proposed that the following changes to Prudential Limits be approved.

| Prudential Limit | Original £000 | Revised £000 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Capital Financing Requirement | 87,086 | 88,586 |
| Operational Limit for External Debt | 88,000 | 89,500 |
| Capital Expenditure Financed by Borrowing | 7,120 | 8,620 |

RESOLVED -

- i) That the report be noted.
- ii) That the Borrowing and Investment strategies outlined in the report be approved.
- iii) That the proposed arrangement for pooling investments with the Fire Authority be approved and the CFO and Chief Solicitor be authorised to conclude the necessary legal agreements.
- iv) That the changes to Prudential Limits be approved.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered that it would be helpful if the Treasury Management report could be updated to be included as part of Scrutiny process.

111. TEESSIDE VALUATION TRIBUNAL

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the following appointments to the Teesside Valuation Tribunal had been confirmed at the Council meeting on 30 October 2008 with a term of office until 31 March 2011:

Councillors Coward, A Lilley and G Lilley and Mr Jeffries.

In addition to these appointments, additional five 'non-councillor' appointments were required, as detailed in a letter submitted as an appendix. In view of the impending legislation changes, it was suggested that as an interim measure, it was more sensible to use some of the currently fully trained existing members from the Tyne and Wear, Durham and North Yorkshire tribunals to cover any temporary shortages which could arise in Teesside after 31 March 2009.

Council's views are sought on the Tribunal's suggestion that fully trained existing members from the Tyne and Wear, Durham and North Yorkshire tribunals be appointed to cover any temporary shortages which arise in Teesside after 31 March 2009. The Chief Executive updated Members, at the meeting, on correspondence received from the Tribunal which included suggested names of the suggested five existing non-councillors members of the Tribunal for the Council to appoint.

Following concerns expressed by Members, the Chairman suggested that a meeting be arranged involving Members and appropriate Officers to discuss appointments to the Tribunal

RESOLVED - That a meeting be arranged involving Members and appropriate Officers to discuss appointments to the Tribunal

The meeting concluded at 9pm

C RICHARDSON

CHAIRMAN

| |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29th January 2009</p> |
|---|

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor C Richardson) presiding:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

COUNCILLORS:

| | | |
|------------|------------|----------|
| Aiken | Allison | Atkinson |
| Barker | Brash | RW Cook |
| Cranney | Fleet | Fleming |
| Flintoff | Gibbon | Griffin |
| Hall | Hargreaves | Jackson |
| James | A Lilley | G Lilley |
| London | A Marshall | McKenna |
| Dr. Morris | Payne | Plant |
| Preece | Rogan | Simmons |
| Sutheran | Turner | Wright |
| Young | | |

Officers:

Paul Walker, Chief Executive

Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Adrienne Simock, Director of Children's Services

Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services

Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive

Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor

Derek Gouldbum, Urban Policy Manager

Geoff Thompson, Head of Regeneration

Michael Ward, Chief Financial Officer

Sarah Bird and Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services

Prior to the commencement of business, the Chairman referred to the recent deaths of former Mayor Ken McIntyre, former Leader of Council Rennie Warnes and former Mayoress Ena Lynch. Members' observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

112. APOLOGIES FROM ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Akers-Belcher, S Cook, Coward, Fenwick, Hill, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, Tumilty, Wistow and Worthy.

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Allison declared a prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting.

114. HARTLEPOOL: HOUSING POSITION STATEMENT (JANUARY 2009)

A position statement on selected aspects of housing in Hartlepool had been circulated which provided a context to the proposed debate on the Motion which had been submitted to Council and which would be considered later in the meeting. The document highlighted the national, regional and local policy context, the current market position, recent achievements and current activities together with some of the key issues facing the Council in discharging its duties as the local housing authority.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

115. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following Notice of Motion had been received:-

“Housing represents one of the biggest challenges facing Hartlepool today. There are literally thousands of people in our town who live in inadequate, poor quality homes or in some cases no home at all.

Poor housing can have a devastating affect on health, especially for children; it can seriously damage local environments and communities and can contribute in a very major way to the problems of crime and antisocial behaviour. In short the current housing crisis affects us all.

There are difficult economic times ahead, but rather than using this as an excuse to do less, the Labour Group sees these difficulties as a motivation to do more to help hard pressed families in Hartlepool. Simply doing nothing or waiting for the economy to pick up are not options, they merely represent an unacceptable abrogation of responsibility. At times like this, people should be able to look to their Council and to their community leaders for more help, not less, and we are committed to that aim.

Real partnership working is needed to fulfil such an aim and this involves pooling the expertise, experience and resources of all organisations with a stake in the housing sector. Only in this way will we achieve our objectives and, as the statutorily responsible body, it must be this Council that offers the strategic leadership to bring these partners together.

Therefore we call on Hartlepool Council to:

- Debate and set a more innovative and radical approach to the housing agenda in Hartlepool that focuses on the development of true partnership across all relevant organisations.
- Establish a housing task force, led by Hartlepool Council and encompassing all relevant bodies, to take this agenda forward.
- Use the Labour Group's housing policy as a blue print for future action: the policy is built on the following principles:
 - 1) Targeting empty properties:

The scourge of empty/abandoned properties must be urgently addressed to ease the housing crisis and improve our communities. With around 1500 such properties in private ownership in the town, the problems of crime, vandalism, graffiti, anti-social behaviour and the general effect of such eyesores on the local environment are all too common in many streets of the town and we believe these wasted assets should be utilised to combat housing need.
 - 2) Residents at the Heart of the Community:

Residents have a right to be completely involved in the design and development of new housing. This will ensure that these much needed new homes are planned with sensitivity to every community. We must be committed to ensuring that every resident can have their say, while at the same time rejecting ill-informed nimby-ism.
 - 3) Putting the Council at the Centre of New Development:

The Council, through new and innovative thinking, must position itself at the centre of new development to bring together real partnership working that maximises all potential resources and that ensures properly planned, high quality developments, which will meet the needs of Hartlepool people, are achieved.
 - 4) Demonstrating our true ambitions:

The culture of putting targets ahead of tenants and figures ahead of families must stop. The current LAA target for bringing empty properties back into use, which stands at a mere 15 properties a year, is pitiful and fails to reflect the ambitions of our town.

We therefore call on Hartlepool Council to set a new significantly higher local target, quite apart from the current LAA, to more accurately demonstrate our commitment to combating the housing shortage.

Signed:

J Brash
R W Cook
M Fleet
S Griffin
G Hall
M James
A Marshall
C Richardson
C Simmons
G Worthy

On moving and seconding the Motion, the background and reasons for presenting the Motion to Council were outlined. During the debate the information content of the Chief Executive's report was noted and welcomed. Whilst acknowledging the considerable progress that had been achieved and the significant current and future levels of investment and activities, the following matters arising from the Motion were highlighted by Members:-

- Improved Partnership working with this Council providing the leadership to bring partners together.
- Establishment of Housing Task Force led by this Council and comprising all relevant bodies.
- Establishment of a Planning Involvement Forum and Resident Committees to ensure residents are involved in any development of new housing.
- Allocation of sites for housing and possible re-designation of sites with some concerns being expressed in terms of the possible sale of Council owned land.
- Ensuring the provision of affordable housing is balanced with need for low density housing.
- Consideration of business model adopted in a Newcastle housing initiative
- Reducing the number of empty properties in Hartlepool, seeking to address where practicable reasons why some properties become empty and links to anti-social behaviour.
- Employment opportunities in terms of apprenticeships, back to work schemes and other employment initiatives
- Limited availability of funding and problems which individuals are experiencing accessing mortgages.
- Setting higher local targets to address empty properties separate from LAA targets although the reasons for LAA targets being set at the current level were noted.

At the end of the debate, before the Motion was put to the vote, the mover of the Motion responded to the issues which had been raised during the debate and sought the Council's support of the Motion.

Motion agreed

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

C RICHARDSON
CHAIRMAN

CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE

A meeting of Cleveland Police Authority Executive was held on Tuesday 4 November 2008 in the Members Conference Room at Police HQ.

PRESENT : Councillor Caroline Barker, Councillor Barry Coppinger, Councillor Mary Lanigan, Councillor Ron Lowes, Councillor Dave McLuckie, Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE and Councillor Victor Tumilty

Independent Members

Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Peter Hadfield, Mr Alf Illingworth TD JP, Mr Mike McGrory JP and Mr Peter Race MBE

OFFICIALS: Mr Joe McCarthy, Mrs Caroline Llewellyn and Mrs Julie Leng (CE)
Mr Derek Bonnard, Mr Graeme Slaughter and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC)
Mrs Kath Andrew – Audit Commission

287 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Chris Coombs, Mr Aslam Hanif and Councillor Steve Wallace.

288 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

289 **POLICE USE OF RESOURCES AUDITOR FEEDBACK REPORT**

The District Auditor presented the results of the 2007/08 police use of resources assessment (PURE) at Cleveland Police Authority. As the Audit Commission's appointed auditor to the Police Authority they undertook the review during the period March 2007 – May 2007, as part of their responsibility to examine the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority's use of resources under section 5(1)(e) of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

The review was completed in accordance with the methodology and guidance issued by the Audit Commission. The results were subject to internal and national quality control arrangements, designed to ensure compliance with the methodology and guidance, and consistency.

This report summarised the approach taken and the results of the assessment. It also highlighted areas for improvement based on the criteria issued by the Commission.

The overall messages from the Audit Commission were as follows:-

- The Force and Authority have continued to embed arrangements for financial reporting, financial management and financial standing;
- Arrangement for internal control have improved and existing arrangement are now becoming embedded. Risk management arrangement were continuing to develop and arrangements to support the annual governance statement have been put in place;
- The Force and Authority continued to demonstrate value for money, but there were less examples of new innovative partnership and collaborative working in 2007/08;
- The key challenges lie within the internal control arrangements where business continuity plans need to be developed for all areas and once developed need testing and reviewing on a regular basis; and
- Use of resources assessments for 2008/09 would change significantly and include assessment of the arrangements in place for workforce planning and strategic asset management.

Members were advised of the following key action to ensure a continue focus on effective use of resources:-

- Adopt the asset management plan and ensure that it was updated annually;
- Develop business continuity plans and ensure that these were regularly tested and reviewed;
- Continue to develop collaborative and partnership working to progress against the modernisation agenda;
- Ensure there were arrangements in place for the expanded use of resources assessment being introduced in 2008/09.

The results of the work carried out had been discussed and agreed with officers and an action plan which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The District Auditor recommended that the completed action plan be formally monitored by the Authority to ensure that the improvement opportunities were realized.

The final scores, key messages and improvement opportunities

would be included in the Police Authority 2007/08 annual audit letter.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted and the action plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report be monitored by the Authority.

290

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

The District Auditor presented the Annual Audit Letter which summarised the key issues arising from our work carried out during the year. The letter was prepared in accordance with the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission.

Recommendations were included within the report to assist the Authority in meeting its responsibilities to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business and that it safeguards and properly accounts for public money.

The District Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion on the Police Authority's accounts for 2007/08. The financial statements were prepared to a good standard, well in advance of the statutory deadline of the 30 June and were supported by comprehensive working papers. The accounts were amended to more accurately reflect capital transactions and pension fund entries, but these changes had no impact on the reported financial position of the Authority. Arrangements for valuation of fixed assets need to be improved to ensure that balance sheet values were accurate.

The Police Authority and Force have arrangements in place to ensure effective use of resources and internal control arrangements have improved. The Authority and Force have exceeded minimum standards set in our annual assessment of use of resources in all areas. To further strengthen internal control arrangements business continuity plans should be developed and regularly tested.

The Police Authority and Force continued to demonstrate value for money, but need to review and challenge areas of relatively high cost and seek to maximize opportunities for continuous service improvement and increased efficiency.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report and its recommendations be noted and agreed.

291

POLICE AUTHORITY INSPECTIONS

The Chair advised members of the forthcoming round of Police Authority inspections.

The Policing Green Paper "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together", signaled that police authority inspections, undertaken jointly by the Audit Commission and HMIC would proceed from April 2009, using provisions in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

The pilot inspections should be completed in the spring of 2009 and the remaining inspections should be completed during the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years.

The inspection would cover four broad areas of performance:-

- Performance management and scrutiny
- Resource management
- People management
- Community engagement and collaboration

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.
2. the Leadership Panel assuming the lead on preparing for this inspection, supported by the appropriate officer substructure be agreed.
3. Cleveland Police Authority volunteer to be inspected at the beginning of the inspection process (2009) rather than towards the end of the process (2010) be agreed.

292

CREATION OF THE STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT AND MAJOR PROJECTS PANEL

The Chief Executive presented the report to members to create a Strategic Procurement and Major Projects Panel.

The Code of Corporate Governance states that the Police Authority may delegate decision making to a subordinate panel or committee, in line with the provisions of the Local Government

Act 1972 (section 101).

The Strategic Procurement and Major Projects Panel was required to direct and oversee the work being carried out and planned on major projects and procurements, such as the putative partnership arrangements for IT service provision, and the management of the Police Estate. This Panel supersedes the Estates and Evaluation Committee, which was created at the Cleveland Police Authority Annual General Meeting in June 2008.

ORDERED that:-

1. the creation of a Strategic Procurement and Major Projects Panel with plenary powers be approved.
2. the Terms of Reference for the Panel (attached as Appendix A to the report) be approved.

293

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES / CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

ORDERED that the following minutes of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel held on 10 September 2008 were submitted and approved.

POLICY & RESOURCES / CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

A meeting of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel was held on Wednesday 10 September 2008 commencing at 10.00 am in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT

Cllr Barry Coppinger (Chair), Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Keith Fisher JP, Mr Aslam Hanif, Mr Alf Illingworth TD JP, Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE, Mr Peter Race MBE and Cllr Steve Wallace (Vice Chair)

OFFICIALS

Mr Joe McCarthy, Mrs Julie Leng, Mr Norman Wright and Mrs Clare Hunter (CE)
Mr Sean Price, Mr Derek Bonnard, Mr Sean White, Mr Graeme Slaughter and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Councillor Ron Lowes and Councillor Victor Tumilty

294

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Pam Andrews-Maver, Mr Chris Coombs (ex-officio) and Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio).

295

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

Action

296

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES – CORPORATE
DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 7 AUGUST 2008**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

297

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. the Outstanding Recommendations be noted.

298

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 JULY 2008

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Commissioning) presented the report. Members had approved a Net Budget Requirement (NBR) of £124,623k and budgeted revenue expenditure of £145,301k, the balance of expenditure being funded by specific grants, other income and transfers from reserves at their meeting on 28 February 2008. This report sets out the progress against delivery of that budget and was part of the process introduced by the Authority to maintain prudent financial management.

The position to date and the year-end forecast were shown at Appendix A to the report. Appendix A showed that following the review of expenditure plans requested by Members at their meeting on 9 July, a managed underspend of £750k could be generated to offset the potential costs of a standalone Air Support Unit in 2008/09.

As a consequence of this it was proposed that the revenue support of £3,373k approved by Members when agreeing the financial plan for 2008/09 is reduced to £2,623k. This would be available for Air Support in 2009/10.

No material risks other than those mentioned in the report or set out in the Risk Monitor at Appendix D had been identified to the delivery of the reported position.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. the review of the expenditure plan for 2008/09 which would generate £750k towards the additional costs of a stand alone Air Support Unit in 2009/10 be approved.
3. the reduction in agreed revenue support of £3,373k in 2008/09 by £750k to £2,623k be approved. This would be available for Air Support in 2009/10.

299

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT TO 31 JULY 2008

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Commissioning) presented the progress against the delivery of the Capital Programme for 2008/09 and the Capital Plan for 2008/11 which Members had approved at their meeting on 28 February 2008.

This report set out the progress made in delivering the Capital Programme for 2008/09 and recommendations to make optimum use of the capital resource available to the Authority to refresh and develop the asset base for policing in the 21st Century in line with the vision of 'Putting People First'.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. the addition of the following project which was approved by the Authority prior to this meeting:-
 - Police Authority Refurbishment £60k
3. bringing forward the following funding from the 2009/10 programme to the 2008/09 programme be approved:-
 - CUPID project £237.7k
4. the transfer of the Abacus capital project budget of £6.8k to the E-forms capital project budget.

300

TREASURY MANAGEMENT TO 31 JULY 2008

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Commissioning) presented the report to Members.

Local Authorities' (including Police Authorities) treasury management activities are prescribed by the Local Government Act 2003. Essentially a police authority may borrow or invest for any purpose relevant to its functions, under any enactment, or 'for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs'.

An investment strategy for 2008/09 was agreed by Members at their meeting on 28 February 2008. This report provided an update on the status of the Authority's investments and borrowing. It was part of the process introduced by the Authority to maintain prudent financial management.

The Authority manages its cash resources in a low risk yet highly liquid manner. Returns on the investments were very competitive given that no risk was taken and the funds were only invested in the short term.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

301

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable provided members with an insight into the position with regard to health and fire safety within Cleveland Police for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008 respectively.

The content of the report was proposed by the Authority's Strategy & Performance Manager on behalf of Members and agreed with the Head of Governance and Safety accordingly.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. future quarterly reports set out in summary format the programme and processes underlying health and safety inspections, and the actions taken to reduce incidents be agreed.

302

PROCUREMENT REPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF A NATIONAL DRIVER OFFENDER RE-TRAINING SCHEME

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer (Finance & Commissioning) presented the report to Members.

Members had approved a capital scheme in respect of the Speed Awareness Module of the National Driver Offender Re-Training Scheme at their July meeting. This report provided Members with a summation of the procurement exercise carried out to award the contract for the provision of the scheme.

The National Driver Offender Re-Training Scheme would be offered to members of the public who would benefit from improving their driving skills following Police intervention. The National Speed Awareness element of this scheme will be offered to members of the public who have been caught speeding between 10%+2 and 10%+6 of the speed limit, in place of the fixed penalty notice and points on their licence.

ORDERED that:-

1. the procurement method used and the recommendation put forward be noted.
2. the details submitted as the best value solution be accepted.
3. the proposed contract be awarded to Tender 5 be noted.
4. the National Speed Awareness Course to be initially charged at £75 per client.
5. a review of the scheme to be undertaken after six months and a report to be submitted to this Panel.

303

STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN CORPORATE PLANNING & PERFORMANCE, CENTRAL BUSINESS UNIT AND COMMISSIONING

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable asked Members to approve an increase in the establishment by 0.1 FTE within Corporate Planning and Performance to support the expansion of the performance framework across all service units and increase cover within the department.

In addition Members were also asked to approve:-

- a change in structure within the Central Business Unit to improve service delivery, encourage team working and improve departmental

resilience in business critical areas;

- a change in structure within the Commissioning function, to increase resilience and increase strategic planning throughout the estate.

Whilst the above units continued to react flexibly to competing demands within existing resource constraints, this cannot be sustained. The solutions proposed would provide resilience and sustainability and have the recommendation of the Force's Resource Management Group.

The Chief Constable therefore recommended the proposal to Members for approval.

ORDERED that:

1. the proposal to increase the Corporate Planning establishment by 0.1 FTE be approved. The costs of the change would be met from existing non-pay budgets.
2. the proposed changes to the structure in the Central Business Unit and Commissioning Team be agreed. The costs of the change would be met from existing non-pay budgets.

304

GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Head of Strategy and Performance sought agreement from Members of the proposed formal response to the Policing Green Paper Consultation form. The recently published Green Paper proposed some fundamental changes to policing, including governance structures and strategic performance issues. It was important that feedback was provided so that Government policy could be influenced by those who were responsible for overseeing the delivery of policing.

ORDERED that:-

1. the responses to the 28 questions included in the Policing Green Paper Response Form as set out in Appendix A to the report be agreed, and that this completed document be forwarded to the Home Office Police Reform Unit.

305

MINUTES OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE

ORDERED that the minutes of the Police Authority Executive held on 17 September 2008 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

306

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND INTERNAL CONTROL PANEL

ORDERED that the following minutes of the Audit and Internal Control Panel held on 18 September 2008 were submitted and approved.

AUDIT AND INTERNAL CONTROL PANEL

ACTION

A meeting of the Audit and Internal Control Panel was held on Thursday 18 September 2008 commencing at 10.00 am in the Members Conference Room, Police Headquarters.

PRESENT Mr Mike McGrory JP (Chair), Councillor Ron Lowes (Vice Chair), Councillor Caroline Barker, Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE, Mr Aslam Hanif, Mr Keith Fisher JP, Councillor Victor Tumilty.

OFFICIALS Mr Joe McCarthy Mr John Bage and Mr Paul Kirkham (CE)
T/DCC Derek Bonnard, Mr Graeme Slaughter and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC)

AUDITORS Ms Sue Turner (RSM Bentley Jennison)
Ms Catherine Andrew (Audit Commission)

307 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Councillor Mary Lanigan, Mr Chris Coombs (ex-officio).

308 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

309 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 17 JULY 2008**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

310 **OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

ORDERED that:-

1. the Outstanding Recommendations were noted.

311 **PROGRESS REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Internal Auditor informed Members that the 2008-9 Internal Audit Plan had been agreed by this Panel on 28 May 2008 and that the report presented today summarized the work carried out to date.

The Internal Auditor informed Members that there were no issues arising from their work for the year to date that would have a negative impact upon their opinion for 2008/09.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

312 **INSURANCE REPORT**

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer Finance & Commissioning verbally updated Members on issues surrounding Risk and Insurance.

Members were informed that the Force was currently having difficulty in recruiting three posts for the Risk Team.

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer Finance & Commissioning informed Members that new arrangements had been put in place to administer the Insurance contract.

ORDERED that:-

1. the verbal update be noted.

313

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

ORDERED that pursuant to the local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

314

EXEMPTIONS TO STANDING ORDERS

The Executive Accountant presented to Members the quarterly report detailing the exemption requests to the Authority's Standing Orders. This report covered exemption requests for the period April to June 2008.

ORDERED that:-

1. Standing Orders had been waived and the details of the exemptions were included in Appendix A to the report be noted.
2. More focused reporting of exemptions as outlined in para's 3.2 to 3.7. of the report and that this style of reporting be utilized for future reports be agreed.

315

BUSINESS CONTINUITY & DISASTER RECOVERY UPDATE

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable presented Members with an overview of the arrangements in place for business continuity and disaster recovery.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

316

BUDGET SETTING

The Internal Auditor presented Members with a report which evaluated the adequacy of risk management and control within the Authority for the Budget Setting process.

Members were informed of the extent to which controls had been applied and that risks to the achievement of the organisation's objectives had been managed effectively.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

317

PURCHASING / PAYMENTS

The Internal Auditor informed Members that an audit of Purchasing and Payments had been undertaken as part of the approved internal audit periodic plan for 2008/09.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

318

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Internal Auditor informed Members that the 2008/09 Capital Programme and Long Term Capital Plan 2009/12 were approved by the Police Authority Executive on the 28th February 2008.

Members were also informed that the Authority had also set a range of Prudential Indicators for the financial year which complied with the CIPFA Prudential Code of Practice. The code is a key element in the system of capital finance and enables the Authority to mitigate risks identified in the corporate risk register.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

319

RISK REGISTER

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable presented the latest copy of the Risk Register to Members.

Members were informed that the process is currently managed through monthly performance reviews, however it was hoped that in the near future software can be found to permit Service Unit Managers to see 'live' data of the Risk Register.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

320

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC POLICING & PERFORMANCE PANEL

ORDERED that the following minutes of the Strategic Policing & Performance Panel held on 24 September 2008 were submitted and approved.

STRATEGIC POLICING & PERFORMANCE

A meeting of the Strategic Policing & Performance Panel was held on Wednesday 24 September 2008 commencing at 10.00 am in the Executive Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Aslam Hanif (Chair), Mr Alf Illingworth TD JP (Vice Chair), Councillor Mary Lanigan and Councillor Bary Coppinger.

OFFICIALS Mr John Bage and Mr Norman Wright (CE).
Mr Sean White and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

ADDITIONAL Mr Mike McGroarty JP and Councillor Victor Tumilty.

MEMBERS

321

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Mr Peter Race MBE, Mr Chris Coombs (ex officio), Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE and Councillor Ron Lowes.

322

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

Action

323

**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC POLICING AND PERFORMANCE PANEL
HELD ON 30 JULY 2008**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

324

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. the Outstanding Recommendations be noted.

325

PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations) presented an update on Force performance for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 August 2008.

Recorded crime during this period showed a reduction in the number of crimes. There was a 16.5% decrease in overall crime, which equated to 4769 fewer victims of crime.

The Force sanction detection rate during the reporting period increased to 37.8%, a 5.2 percentage point improvement from the same period last year.

The performance figures show that the Force continued to make excellent progress in reducing crime and increasing detections.

ORDERED that:-

1. the positive performance figures for the period April 2008 – August 2008 be noted.

326

LOCAL POLICING PLAN UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations) presented a progress report update on the 2008 – 11 Local Policing Plan activities.

Members were informed that the policing priority activities are measured using performance indicators with-in the Assessment of Police and Community

Safety (APACS) performance framework.

The activities presented at Appendix 1 of the report cover the principles of:

- Putting People First
- Reducing harm caused by Drugs
- Reducing crime and Anti-social behaviour
- Protecting the public from serious crime and terrorism.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

327

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

ORDERED that pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting under paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

328

REVIEW OF CRIME RECORDING AND MANAGEMENT

The Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations) presented a progress report update on the current review of Crime Recording and Management being undertaken by the Operational Performance Team (OPT).

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

329

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL POLICE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE

ORDERED that the minutes of the Special Police Authority Executive held on 30 September 2008 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

330

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES / CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

ORDERED that the following minutes of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel held on 9 October 2008 were submitted and approved.

POLICY & RESOURCES / CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

A meeting of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel was held on Thursday 9 October 2008 commencing at 10.00 am in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT

Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Mr Chris Coombs (ex-officio), Cllr Barry Coppinger (Chair), Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Peter Hadfield, Mr Alf Illingworth TD JP, Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE, Mr Peter Race MBE and Cllr Steve Wallace (Vice Chair)

OFFICIALS

Mrs Julie Leng, Mr Norman Wright and Miss Rachelle Kipling (CE)
Mr Sean Price, Mr Michael Porter, Mrs Julie Snell and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

ADDITIONAL
MEMBERS
331

Councillor Ron Lowes and Councillor Victor Tumilty

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Aslam Hanif, Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Mr Joe McCarthy, Mr Derek Bonnard and Mr Graeme Slaughter.

332

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

Action

333

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES – CORPORATE
DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2008**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

334

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. the Outstanding Recommendations be noted.
2. An update be provided to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel in relation to time of in lieu in view of discussions that are currently taking place with Federation.

ACC White

335

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2008

The Deputy Head of Financial Services presented the report. Members had approved a Net Budget Requirement (NBR) of £124,623k and budgeted revenue expenditure of £145,301k, the balance of expenditure being funded by specific grants, other income and transfers from reserves at their meeting on 28 February 2008. This report sets out the progress against delivery of that budget and was part of the process introduced by the Authority to maintain prudent financial management.

The position to date and the year-end forecast were shown at Appendix A to the report. Appendix A reflected Members' decision to create a £750k provision against the potential costs of a stand alone air support unit in 2009/10 and the consequent reduction in revenue support necessary to £2,623k in 2008/09.

No material risks other than those mentioned in the report or set out in the Risk Monitor at Appendix D had been identified to the delivery of the reported position.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

336

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2008

The Deputy Head of Financial Services presented the progress against the

delivery of the Capital Programme for 2008/09 and the Capital Plan for 2008/11 which Members had approved at their meeting on 28 February 2008.

This report set out the progress made in delivering the Capital Programme for 2008/09 and recommendations to make optimum use of the capital resource available to the Authority to refresh and develop the asset base for policing in the 21st Century in line with the vision of 'Putting People First'.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. the addition of £17k to the Police Authority Refurbishment scheme budget taking it to £77k be approved.
3. the bringing forward of £30k from 2009/10 on the Airwaves project taking this to £240k in 208/09 be approved.
4. A report detailing key projects for consideration at Ladgate Lane in light of the development that a new Headquarters is now on hold because of the current financial climate.

337

TREASURY MANAGEMENT TO 31 AUGUST 2008

The Deputy Head of Financial Services presented the report to Members.

Local Authorities' (including Police Authorities) treasury management activities are prescribed by the Local Government Act 2003. Essentially a police authority may borrow or invest for any purpose relevant to its functions, under any enactment, or 'for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs'.

An investment strategy for 2008/09 was agreed by Members at their meeting on 28 February 2008. This report provided an update on the status of the Authority's investments and borrowing. It was part of the process introduced by the Authority to maintain prudent financial management.

The Authority manages its cash resources in a low risk yet highly liquid manner. Returns on the investments were very competitive given that no risk was taken and the funds were only invested in the short term.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

338

POLICE AUTHORITY SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Strategy and Performance Manager presented the revised Police Authority Service Improvement Plan 2008-2011 (attached as Appendix A to the report) to Members.

The service improvement planning process provided Members with assurances that the recommendations of audits, inspection and reviews were being progressed in a systematic and timely manner.

ORDERED that:-

1. the simplified format of the Service Improvement Plan in line with the proposal outlined at the Policy and Resources / Corporate Development Panel in May 2008 be noted.
2. the 9 service improvement items included within section 3 of the revised Service Improvement Plan 2008-11 be agreed. That the removal of completed and obsolete items and the addition of a new item on estates issues be noted. The table below is a summary of the revisions:-

| New Ref. | Old Ref. | Comment |
|----------|----------|--|
| PA1 | PA1 | Partnerships |
| PA2 | PA27/35 | Governance and business planning |
| PA3 | PA16 | Asset management |
| PA4 | PA18 | Risk management |
| PA5 | PA20 | Performance issues |
| PA6 | PA28 | Collaboration and work force modernisation |
| PA7 | New | Estates issues |
| PA8 | PA36 | Equal pay audit |
| PA9 | PA30 | Listing key strategic objectives |

339

CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME 2008-11

The Strategy and Performance Manager presented the agreed 6-monthly update on the operation of Cleveland Police Authority's Single Equality Scheme, which was accepted by the Police Authority Executive on 14 June 2007.

The Cleveland Police Authority Single Equality Scheme was progressing as expected, with the action plan items being attended to and equality impact assessments being carried out, as required.

ORDERED that:-

1. the updated action plan attached at Appendix A to the report be noted, in particular:-
 - a. item 2 – that the next diversity training for Members and Independent Custody Visitors be arranged for December 2008;
 - b. items 7 and 8 – that the force Diversity Unit had begun to enhance its diversity data and reporting to comply with Home Office guidelines regarding recruitment and employment procedures and processes.
2. there had been no requirements for Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out by police authority staff over the last 6 months be noted.
3. there the two regulatory items on the horizon detailed below be

noted:-

- The 2008 Policing Green Paper proposed the development of a new three-year equality, diversity and human rights strategy for the police service, including partnership arrangements;
- The Government had outlined (June 2008) a new Equality bill to bring together all strands of diversity legislation currently contained in 116 separate pieces of legislation. The legislative focus would be on positive actions that employers and businesses must take to promote equality of opportunity and end discriminatory practices. The publicity surrounding the bill focuses on making it easier for women to claim equal pay and on strengthening age discrimination provisions.

Both developments would be monitored and the Single Equality Scheme would be amended as appropriate.

340

POLICE USE OF RESOURCES EVALUTION (PURE) 2007/2008 AND 2008/2009

The Deputy Head of Financial Services provided information relating to the progress made in implementation of the recommendations from PURE 2007/2008.

The report drew Members attending to the commencement of work relating to PURE 2008/2009 which would feed into the new Comprehensive Area Assessment, on which Members would receive a briefing.

Appendix A to the report showed a positive progress against the majority of PURE 2007/2008 recommendations.

ORDERED that:

1. the information in Appendix A relating to implementation of the recommendations of the Audit Commission for PURE 2007/2008 be noted.
2. a briefing by the Audit Commission on Comprehensive Area Assessment be arranged for Members be noted.

341

PROPOSED MOVE OF FALLBACK EQUIPMENT FROM PARK ROAD SOUTH TO MIDDLESBROUGH DISTRICT HQ

The Head of ICT presented to Members the detailed business case for the proposed move of the equipment that provides communications fallback from Park Road South (RPS) to Middlesbrough District HQ (M8).

The scheme received approval in principal in the 2008/2009 capital programme agreed by Members on 28 February 2008, and indicative funding had been reserved pending the agreement of the full business case.

This report sought approval to proceed to the procurement and implementation phases of the project.

The project had an intrinsic urgency due to the vulnerabilities resulting from the limitations of Park Road South which had been known about for several years but due to a lack of any other suitable location the Force had risk managed this location.

Without the proposed enhanced facility being implemented at M8 then any evacuation of HQ would continue to result in only a short term limited service being available to Communications at Park Road South.

This work needed to be carried out as quickly as possible to ensure the Force could meet its obligations to both its operational officers and the public.

There were no national constraints for this project and it should be possible to complete this project within the 2008/09 financial year.

ORDERED that:-

1. the detailed business case be presented with this report be noted.
2. approval be given to proceed with the implementation of the relocation of the Force's fallback site, subject to the implementation plans being reviewed in the context of the ICT Strategic Procurement exercise and expenditure only incurred where the assessed risk warrants investment.
3. approval be given for the project to proceed with a contingency of £50k should Sungard be required to relocate the Integrated Command & Control System (ICCS) – detailed in paragraph 4.2 to the report.

342

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

ORDERED that pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

343

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETINGS 1, 2 AND 3 OCTOBER 2008

ORDERED that:-

1. the minutes be noted.
2. a further update be given to all members as appropriate at the next Police Authority Executive.

344

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PROTECTION PANEL

ORDERED that the following minutes of the Community Protection Panel held on 15 October were submitted and approved.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION PANEL

A meeting of the Community Protection Panel was held on Wednesday 15th October in the Executive Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT: Cllr Hazel Pearson OBE (Chairman), Cllr Victor Tumilty (Vice Chair) Mr. Peter Race MBE, Mr. Ted Cox JP, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Cllr Ron Lowes and Cllr Paul Kirton

OFFICIALS: Mr. Norman Wright and Mrs. Sarah Wilson (CE)
ACC White, ACC Bonnard and Kate Rowntree.

345 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Cllr Dave McLuckie (ex officio) and Mr. Chris Coombs (ex officio).

346 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

347 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Community Protection Panel meeting held on 14 August 2008 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to one amendment – Cllr Paul Kirton to be added to the list of apologies.

348 **OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

ORDERED that:-

1. The outstanding recommendations be noted.

349 **HATECRIME REPORT**

The T/Assistant Chief Constable Pickard gave Members an overview of current issues around the management of hate crime by Cleveland Police. Sections 4 to 7 of the report detailed specific work being carried out on all four police districts.

Members were informed of the following facts and issues:

- The YTD statistics show a significant decrease in incidents, but this was mainly due to incorrect reporting in previous periods. A Chief Inspector from the Diversity Unit has been tasked to further review the reporting arrangements to ensure the continued accuracy of data.
- There is a newly appointed Sergeant for community engagement, part of the PREVENT strategy to help reduce hate crime and build trust amongst the diverse communities.
- Cleveland Police have been chosen as a pilot site for the new Equality Standards for Policing, which should assist in focusing on the management of hate crime and help with the forthcoming HMIC Workforce Inspection.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

350

VOLUNTEER POLICE CADET SCHEME

The Assistant Chief Constable White provided Members with an update on the progress of the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme.

The following items were reported:-

- A Coordinator had been appointed as from 1st September 2008.
- Districts have been asked to nominate a local contact for the Coordinator to work with.
- The Coordinator has established a working party for the project, with CPA representation. The first meeting was held on 6th October 2008. A GANT chart detailing the workload was handed out at the Panel meeting.
- The project has funding until mid 2009 and further funding is now being sought, including from partners.

ORDERED that:

1. The Working Party meetings should be minuted/noted in future, with details made available for this Panel to note.
2. The report be noted.

351

CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION

The T/Assistant Chief Constable Pickard provided Members with an overview of the current procedures for child abuse investigation. This included details of the make up of Child Abuse Investigation Units, their workload and how they align with the work of the three Local Safeguarding Children's Boards, on which the police are a key member.

The following points were noted:-

- There are four Child Abuse Investigation Units, one based in each district. Each unit has a Sergeant and between four and six constables. Weekend cover is provided.
- The Local Safeguarding Children's Board instigates a Serious Case Review when a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is a factor. This year there has been one such review and there were no recommendations relating to Cleveland Police.
- The Local Safeguarding Children's Board also reviews all child deaths, and the Head of Crime Operations is the Cleveland Police representative on the Overview Panel.
- For the financial YTD there have been 145 relevant crimes recorded and 109 crimes detected. 261 suspects have been arrested or formally interviewed under caution.
- The annual police contribution to the three Local Safeguarding Children's Boards is around £120k, or 11% of the total cost. The budget and expenditure is reported to the Children's Trust Boards, on which both the Force and Authority are represented.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

352

VULNERABLE ADULTS UNIT REPORT

The T/Assistant Chief Constable Pickard updated Members on the current work

across the Force to tackle abuse caused to, and committed by, vulnerable adults. The nature and range of offences covered was highlighted.

The following points were noted:-

- The Vulnerable Adults Unit consists of 4 staff working within the Crime Department at Police HQ.
- There is a strong emphasis on multi-agency investigation, including case reviews, adhering to the Home Office "No Secrets" guidance.
- Each Social Services Dept has a Vulnerable Adult Coordinator in place for this work.
- Reported incidents of abuse have steadily increased over recent years, and this may continue as more old people enter care arrangements.
- Cleveland Police currently contribute 10% to the arrangements for partnership working in each local authority (Safeguarding Adults), approximately £30k per annum in total. There is pressure from local authorities to increase the funding and the Force is looking for greater collaboration before it recommends any commitment to this.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

353

DOMESTIC ABUSE REPORT

The T/Assistant Chief Constable Pickard updated Members on the current work being undertaken across the Force to tackle domestic abuse. This included an explanation of the MARAC arrangements for safeguarding victims and the MAPPA arrangements for monitoring offenders.

The following points were noted:-

- Domestic abuse investigation is very much a core policing role for response policing. Domestic violence is a major factor in murder and other serious violent crime and a main emphasis of domestic abuse training is to see it as homicide prevention.
- There is currently a review of domestic abuse underway led by CI Alistair Simpson.
- Each district has a Domestic Abuse Unit and in addition Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland districts have Domestic Violence Investigators in place. The domestic abuse review will look at whether this should be the case in the other 2 districts.
- The Force now has a national reputation for the way it handles Honour Based Violence and forced marriage.
- Statistics for reported incidents and repeat victims were discussed, both at force and district level. The steady increase in reporting is seen by the Force as a positive in that it indicates increasing confidence in the reporting process. A recent survey found that 70% of victims felt safer after being through the criminal justice process and 92% felt that they were getting the support they needed.
- Following Members' questions it was confirmed that the domestic abuse review will look at the links between the MARAC and MAPPA processes to ensure that victims continue to be protected.

ORDERED that:

1. Once the domestic abuse review is completed, a Members' Briefing takes place covering the subjects of child abuse, vulnerable adults and domestic abuse.

2. The report be noted.

354

STOP AND SEARCH REPORT

The Assistant Chief Constable White presented Members with the latest statistics on stop and search by ethnicity and the reason for the stop and search.

The following points were noted:-

- The policy framework around stop and search is to reduce the fear of crime, promoting trust and confidence.
- This financial YTD there were 5567 stop and searches conducted, of which 2.3% were VME. Of the people stopped, 21% were arrested, mostly for going equipped or for stolen property. Of these 2.5% were VME. This shows a fair and proportionate approach, one that is intelligence led and very effective. Officers do not conduct “fishing trips”. Each day there are 31 searches, resulting in 6 arrests, a relatively high conversion rate. After members’ questions it was agreed to supply the stop and search data by time segments so long as this is not too onerous to collate.
- When the CUPID project is piloted in Hartlepool in the New Year it is hoped to make the stop and search form electronic. This is in line with the recent Flanagan recommendations.
- It was agreed that information provided by Neighbourhood Watch is very useful for this process as it often provides reasonable grounds for stop and search.
- It was agreed that there is a need to provide more feedback to victims and witnesses of crime. This was pointed out by the recent internal review of crime reporting and it is recognised nationally as a weakness in police performance. The Assistant Chief Constable expressed his aspiration to have every victim of crime personally visited in future.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted

355

NPIA REVIEW OF PCSO DEPLOYMENT

The Police Authority’s Strategy and Performance Manager presented a report to Members explaining the details of the recent National Policing Improvement Agency’s review of Police Community Support Officer Deployment.

The following points were noted:-

- The review found that the introduction of PCSOs and neighbourhood policing is generally viewed as a success.
- PCSOs predominantly undertake core public reassurance roles as per the 2005 ACPO Guidelines. The review recommends that all Forces should be made to comply with the Guidelines and focus PCSO resources around Neighbourhood Policing. It was noted that Cleveland Police already complies with this requirement.
- The review found that certain PCSO powers are seldom used and some, such as detention powers, may put PCSOs into conflict situations that are better dealt with by police officers. The recommendation in the report is to review PCSO powers to ensure that they are all required and used.

- The review recommends that all Forces follow the standard recruitment and training protocols from 2009. Cleveland Police will review any changes required to the University training, which are expected to be minimal.
- The review recommended improved career development for PCSOs, including an NVQ and accredited learning, with a view to allowing PCSOs to more easily become police officers.
- The review comments upon the supervision of PCSOs and neighbourhood police teams. Cleveland Police will study carefully any issues arising, such as the supervision of PCSOs by PCs instead of Sergeants.
- Members commented that some neighbourhood policing teams seemed to lack resources in relation to the potential workload in their areas.
- It was acknowledged that the issue of continued partnership funding for PCSOs may cause a problem for the Force and Authority within the long-term financial plan.
-

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

356

END OF YEAR POLICE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION REPORT

The police authority's Consultation Officer presented a report detailing all of the consultation activities carried out by the authority over the year to October 2008. This includes a broad span of consultation exercises, from the large postal survey as part of the Policing Plan Summary down to numerous focus group exercises with various local interests.

The following points were noted; -

- Anti-social behaviour remains the number one priority for residents in Cleveland. The top items are vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage, followed by people using and dealing drugs and people being rowdy and causing a nuisance.
- Other high priority areas for residents are crimes associated with drugs and violence.
- The top priorities for policing are emergency response followed by neighbourhood policing followed by serious and organised crime investigation.
- The views of young people, who were extensively consulted, are aligned to those of adults, except that they favour more CCTV coverage and the provision of more activities for young people.
- The residents perceive an overall reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in their area over the last 12 months, with Redcar & Cleveland showing the biggest improvements. The same applies to satisfaction with, and the perceptions of, neighbourhood policing.
- Overall, residents felt that the police had a very good understanding of local issues, and that these were being dealt with relatively well.
- Members acknowledged the public's satisfaction following drugs raids, which creates a lasting feel-good factor.
- The Assistant Chief Constable agreed to discuss the contents of this report at his next BCU meetings.

ORDERED that:

1. The report's findings be recognised and used, along with the Force's strategic assessments and the Home Secretary's national policing priorities, to assist in the setting of local policing priorities for Cleveland for 2009/10.

357 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

ORDERED that pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

358 **CLEVELAND AIR SUPPORT UNIT POSITION UPDATE**

The Chair of the Strategic Air Support Unit updated Members on the provision of Air Support in the Cleveland areas and of the termination of the North East Air Support Unit (NEASU).

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

359 **PROCUREMENT REPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF PILOT SERVICES**

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer (Finance & Commissioning) presented the report to Members in relation to the procurement for the provision of pilot services.

The procurement process had been completed in line with Cleveland Police Authority's Standing Orders and European Legislation.

The tender submission had fully met the specification required by Cleveland Police Authority.

The Evaluation Team recommended that the contract be awarded to Tender 2.

ORDERED that:-

1. the procurement method, analysis used and the decision made by the Evaluation Team be approved.
2. the contract be awarded to Tender 2 be approved.
3. that the stand alone option detailed in paragraph 4.1 to the report be approved.

360

**PROCUREMENT REPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF
HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

The Temporary Assistant Chief Officer (Finance & Commissioning) presented the report to Members in relation to the procurement for the provision of helicopter maintenance services.

The procurement process had been completed in line with Cleveland Police Authority's Standing Orders and European Legislation.

The tender submission had fully met the specification required by Cleveland Police Authority.

The Evaluation Team recommended that the contract be awarded to Tender 1.

ORDERED that:-

1. the procurement method, analysis used and the decision made by the Evaluation Team be approved.
2. the contract be awarded to Tender 1 as the most economically advantageous tender be approved.

361

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETINGS HELD ON 1 AND 15
OCTOBER 2008**

ORDERED that:-

1. the minutes be noted.



CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT: **CHAIRMAN:**
Councillor Porley - Middlesbrough
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:
Councillors Cook, Payne, Wright
MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL:-
Councillors Ismail, Rogers, Williams
REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-
Councillors Briggs, Cooney, Dunning, Fitzpatrick, Forster, Ovens
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-
Councillors Beall, Cherrett, Dixon, O'Donnell, Salt, Stoker, Woodhead
PROPER OFFICERS:-
Legal Adviser, Treasurer, Deputy Clerk
FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS:-
Chief Fire Officer, Executive Director, Assistant Director of Performance
BY INVITATION:-
Mr S Watson, Fire Brigades Union, Firefighter Peter Woodhead
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor Fleming (Hartlepool)
Councillors Clark, Jones (Middlesbrough)

96. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no declarations of interest were submitted to the meeting.

97. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Meeting held on 26 September 2008 be confirmed.

98. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 24 October 2008, the Policy Committee held on 7 November 2008, and the Standards Committee meeting held on 18 November 2008 be confirmed.

99. COMMUNICATIONS SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OR CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

The Chairman informed Members that since the last meeting the following correspondence had been received:

- Letter from the Clerk tendering his resignation with effect from 31 March 2009
- Letter from Sadiq Khan, Fire Minister, regarding North East Fire Control
- Letter from Hartlepool Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee regarding North East FireControl Co Ltd

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

100. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

100.1 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2008-2011: Consultation on feedback on the IRMP Savings Proposals

The Executive Director outlined the consultation results in relation to the five IRMP saving proposals which were considered by the Policy Committee at their meeting on 7 November 2008. These being:

- Construct an employer's budget which allows for staff turnover of five employees per annum
- Set response time targets and review staffing arrangements for the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU)
- Set response time targets and review staffing arrangements for the Incident Command Unit (ICU)
- Set response time targets and review staffing arrangements for the Hydraulic Platform (HP)
- Undertake an Organisational Review

The Executive Director outlined feedback received from the FBU and a member of staff during the consultation process. He asked Members to consider whether or not the five IRMP saving proposals should be implemented as a means of achieving the 2008/09 budget savings and whether £100,000 of the expected £540,000 efficiency savings from the Organisational Review should contribute to Occupational Health provision (circa £40,000) and to remove the anomaly of A and B pay points caused by the application of 'job sizing' as soon as practicable.

Following discussion by Members, it was agreed to support the five IRMP saving proposals and utilise £100,000 of the expected efficiency savings to contribute to Occupational Health provision and remove the anomaly of A and B pay points.

RESOLVED :-

- (i) that comments raised in the consultation responses on the five IRMP savings proposals be noted
- (ii) that the comments of the Policy Committee from the 7th November 2008 be noted
- (iii) that the five IRMP saving proposals should be implemented as a means of achieving the 2008/09 budget savings
- (iv) that £100,000 of the expected £540,000 efficiency savings from the Organisation Review be utilised to supplement the following two areas; a contribution of circa £40,000 toward the additional costs of an Occupational Health provision and circa £60,000 to remove the anomaly of A and B pay points caused by the application of 'job sizing' following the 2003 pay agreement to be paid as soon as practicable.

101.2 Asset Management

The Executive Director confirmed the announcement by Communities and Local Government (CLG) that £60m has been set aside in PFI credits for the joint Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington and Northumberland proposal for the provision of new community safety facilities as outlined in the 'expression of interest'. He informed Members that initial arrangements have been put in place by the Senior Management Team to ensure effective governance arrangements for the delivery of this project, including the appointment of a Project Director.

101.2 Asset Management (cont)

The Executive Director informed Members that the CLG have invited Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington and Northumberland Fire and Rescue Services to provide further details on their proposals through the provision of a mini business case that are required by March 2009, with a full business case being produced 44 weeks from notification of the selected projects.

The Executive Director explained that for Cleveland Fire Authority, the expression of interest relates to capital expenditure of £37.120m and relates to the replacement of the Headquarters and amalgamation of the Learning and Development Centre, Youth Academy and Technical Workshops and Stores onto the Headquarters site. In addition, it related to the replacement of Billingham, Grangetown, Thornaby, Stranton and Headland fire stations; and the amalgamation of Middlesbrough and Marine Fire Stations to be replaced by one community fire station. He stated that the £60m PFI credits translate into circa £40m capex with Cleveland's share being circa £24m. Therefore alternative funding routes will have to be investigated in order to implement the Brigade's Asset Management Plan.

Councillor Payne asked for clarification as to where finances will come from for the provision of a Project Director and Project Manager. The Executive Director stated that an existing member of staff had been appointed temporary Project Director and all expenditure up to the submission of the mini outline business case (March 2009) would be managed from within current budgetary constraints. In addition, the Executive Director confirmed that he would provide clarification as to the associated funding arrangements in a future report to the CFA.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Members note the CLG's announcement that they have set aside £60m in PFI credits for the joint Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington and Northumberland proposal for the provision of new community safety facilities as outlined in the 'expression of interest' at Appendix 1 of the report.
- (ii) That these credits amount to circa £40m (approx £24m capex) for Cleveland Fire Authority and therefore alternative funding routes need to be investigated in order to implement the Brigade's Asset Management Plan.
- (iii) That the initial arrangements put in place by the Senior Management Team to ensure effective governance arrangements for the delivery of this project were noted.
- (iv) That work will commence immediately on the outline business case and this along with any further developments will be reported to future Authority meetings.
- (v) That the Executive Director clarify the associated funding arrangements of the Asset Management project to be reported to a future Authority meeting.

101.3 FRS Equality & Diversity Recruitment Targets (Higher Recruitment Targets)

The Executive Director provided Members with an overview of the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity recruitment targets and what we are expected to achieve and what our current workforce profile looks like and how these new targets fit with Brigade Strategy. He reported that recruitment, retention and progressions workforce diversity targets for women and minority ethnic staff have to be met by 2013, and there is an opportunity to commit to achieving recruitment targets which are higher than the standard and by committing to these higher targets will give opportunities to access associated funding.

101.3 FRS Equality & Diversity Recruitment Targets (Higher Recruitment Targets) (cont)

Councillor Ismail stated that as Equality & Diversity Champion he welcomed the higher targets and in turn the funding available in order to increase positive action. He referred to his recent letter to Members informing them of the achievement of Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government and encouraged Members to take advantage of development opportunities with regard to Equality & Diversity.

Councillor Payne confirmed that he fully supported this issue but stated that he believed Cleveland Fire Brigade should always employ the best possible staff regardless of their colour, gender and ethnicity and requested assurance that standards would not be lowered in order to 'tick a box'.

Councillor Fitzpatrick commented on the need to avoid duplication in Equality & Diversity training which is also undertaken in respective councils. Councillor Briggs stated that he believed Equality & Diversity training should be offered in house with the assurance that it will be different from that delivered by respective authorities. Councillor Beall supported Councillor Ismail and reported that there are advantages in a workforce that reflects the community.

The Chief Fire Officer referred to the launch earlier in the week of the five-point Equality & Diversity Charter by the LGA. He stated that although the Brigade does not reflect the community it serves yet, we do deliver a variety of services throughout the community. He reported that the Brigade's commitment to equality and diversity is reflected by the desire to demonstrate a change in our workforce profile and reflects our Corporate Objective to have a diverse workforce and the Brigades internal operating plan references increasing recruitment amongst the hard to reach groups.

Councillor Forster supported the Authority's commitment to Equality and Diversity and informed Members that she had attended the National CFA Equality and Diversity Conference on 25 November 2008 where the five-point Equality & Diversity Charter was announced and informed Members that every FRA has to have an Equality & Diversity Champion and that training for all new Members is to be compulsory. Councillor Forster reported that Sadiq Khan, MP spoke at the conference and commented that low BME numbers can be excused in some parts of the country but there is no excuse for low numbers of women. She also updated Members on the Asian Fire Service Association Conference on 26 November 2008 where Riasat Khaliq our Director of Resilience Management was mentioned by name as one of only 3 senior Asian officers in the country.

Following discussion, Members agreed that development on Equality & Diversity should be undertaken for Members in-house preferably prior to a full CFA Meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) Members pledged their commitment to supporting Cleveland Fire Brigade in achieving the Higher Recruitment targets detailed in Appendix A**
- (ii) that the Chairman and Chief Fire Officer sign the letter of commitment**
- (iii) that development on Equality & Diversity be arranged for Members on an in-house basis prior to a CFA Meeting**

101.4 The 'GO' Award

The Executive Director provided Members with an overview of the Government Office Fire & Rescue Award (GO Award). He explained that the award was launched in March 2008 and has been developed to enable the implementation of the National Strategy for Skills for Life (recommendations with the "Leitch Review 2005"). The GO Award is essentially an implementation plan for Skills for Life strategy and has six main criteria:

- The development of a Whole Organisation Approach
- Working towards the development of a strategy for the organisation
- Developing staff within the organisation to support Skills for Life
- Appropriate identification of staff with Skills for Life needs
- Flexibility in delivery of Skills for Life in the workplace
- Skills for Life development forms part of the wider staff development programme

In order to achieve full award status Members will need to pledge their commitment to support Cleveland Fire Brigade in this endeavour and there is a requirement for "sign-up" by the Chairman of the Fire Authority, the Chief Fire Officer and other key partners.

RESOLVED – that Members pledge their commitment to supporting Cleveland Fire Brigade achieve full award status.

101.5 Executive Directors Information Pack – November 2008

- 101.5.1 Fire and Rescue Service Circulars
- 101.5.2 National Joint Circulars
- 101.5.3 The Audit Commission consultation paper on Comprehensive Area Assessment and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) consultation paper on the National Procurement Strategy (2008-2011)

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

102 NE FIRE CONTROL COMPANY BOARD UPDATE - LACC

Councillor Forster provided Members with a verbal update on progress in respect of the North East Local Authority Controlled Company. She informed Members that following her letter to the Fire Minister in August expressing concerns about the content of the Regional Annexe to the Business Case, she had now received a reply but it did not provide any of the assurances that were sought. Councillor Forster confirmed that clarification has been sought from CLG on all aspects of the security implications of the Regional Control Centre being part of the Critical National Infrastructure and that further guidance should be issued by CLG in the 'near future'. She stated that further visits for Control and FRS staff will be facilitated from early December (once the contractors have left site).

Councillor Payne raised the issue of the 9 month delay in the RCC becoming operational and asked what would happen should the Cleveland Fire Brigade Control Room encounter difficulties between now and the move.

The Treasurer stated that he had asked this question at the last finance working group meeting and was informed verbally by CLG that any additional expenditure regarding the existing equipment would be looked at on a case by case basis.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted

103 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR INFORMATION PACK

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported the issue of violence to firefighters had been scrutinised by Members and had included safety from a managerial, a Trade Union and a Firefighter perspective. Firefighter Peter Woodhead (who had been injured in a recent incident), and Mr Steve Watson the FBU representative had attended the meeting as part of the scrutiny process, and the Committee had recommended the matter be referred to the Authority for their consideration.

The Executive Director referred to the attack in Norton Grange and informed Members that the individuals were caught but disappointingly, the charge was limited to affray as the individuals pleaded guilty. He assured Members that there are measures in place to train staff, develop and implement control measures to reduce attacks and monitor attack rates.

Mr Watson and Firefighter Woodhead both presented their individual perspectives on this issue and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding what action can be taken by Firefighters to defend themselves when they come under attack. Both Mr Watson and Firefighter Woodhead expressed the view that although firefighters are entitled to use reasonable force when under attack, they would not like to see firefighters in an enforcement role.

Councillor Cherrett declared a personal interest as a Member of Tristar Homes and informed Members of further instances of attacks on Firefighters and urged the Authority to support their staff.

The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny sought Members views and support on the following recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- a) write to Tristar homes (Stockton) and ask them to take any appropriate action regarding their tenants who were responsible for the attacks on firefighters.
- b) inform all councils and outside bodies in this area that these people have been charged with attacking public servants.
- c) ask that tenancy agreements include stronger consequences of anti social behaviour especially against public servants
- d) write to the Home Secretary of our disgust at the way those responsible for the attacks have been let off due to the action of CPS in watering down charges
- e) lobby for changes to the law so that firefighters are protected and treated the same as the police
- f) the CFA, fire minister and all councils have a duty of care regarding firefighter safety - are councils using what sanctions are available to them.

The Legal Adviser advised that:

- it would be appropriate to write to Tristar Homes with a copy to Julie Nixon and Councillor Steve Nelson requesting due investigation by Tristar Homes regarding the concerns raised and whether any action could be taken.
- adequate reporting mechanisms should already be in place with individual councils.
- standard tenancy agreements already include clauses on anti social behaviour.
- the CPS will have had regard to sufficiency of evidence and whether it was in the public interest to proceed with a prosecution. However it would be appropriate for the Chairman to write to the Chief Crown Prosecutor with a copy to the Home Secretary regarding the charging and this particular individual's conviction.
- it was appropriate to lobby the Home Office questioning whether available sanctions are appropriate in today's society.

- councils do have powers notably under the Crime and Disorder Act which provide for a range of sanctions and for organisations and agencies to share concerns and develop working practices.

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal interest as a Member of Tristar Board.

Extensive discussions took place regarding the proposed recommendations and action some of which were not supported unanimously and a vote was taken as follows:

Recommendation a – that the Authority write to Tristar Homes with a copy to Julie Nixon and Councillor Steve Nelson requesting due investigation by Tristar Homes regarding these concerns and any action that can be taken - **15 votes for and 2 against**

Recommendation b - that liaison between other agencies be handled by Officers as a matter of course with regard to the sharing of information - **agreed**

Recommendation c – **no action required**

Recommendation d – that the Authority write to the Crown Prosecution Service with a copy to the Home Secretary raising concerns regarding the nature of this individual's conviction, Councillor Dixon also requested an addition be made to the letter asking for witnesses views be taken into consideration if a guilty plea is submitted – **15 votes for and 2 against**

Recommendation e – that the Authority lobby the Home Office questioning whether available sanctions are appropriate in today's society and that Firefighters be afforded similar protection to the Police - **15 votes for and 2 against**

Recommendation f - Councils do have powers notably under the Crime and Disorder Act which provide for a range of sanctions and for organisations and agencies to share concerns and develop working practices - **15 votes for and 2 against**

RESOLVED:

- (i) **that the Authority write to Tristar Homes with a copy to Julie Nixon and Councillor Steve Nelson requesting due investigation by Tristar Homes regarding these concerns and any action that can be taken.**
- (ii) **that liaison between other agencies be handled by Officers as a matter of course with regard to the sharing of information**
- (iii) **that the Authority write to the Crown Prosecution Service with a copy to the Home Secretary raising concerns regarding the nature of this individual's conviction.**
- (iv) **that the Authority lobby the Home Office questioning whether available sanctions are appropriate in today's society and that Firefighters be afforded similar protection to the Police.**

104 REPORTS OF THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY **104.1 Fire Conference 2009 – 12 to 14 May 2009**

The Clerk sought Members wishes in respect of Member attendance at the Fire Conference 2009 which is to be on 12-14 May 2009 in Birmingham. After discussion Members agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chair and a minority group member attend this event.

RESOLVED – that the Chairman, Vice Chair and a minority group member attend the Fire Conference to be held on 12-14 May 2009 in Birmingham

104.2 LGA Fire Services Forum Membership 2008/2009

Members views were sought regarding nominating additional representatives to the LGA Fire Services Forum. After discussion Members agreed that Councillor B Forster should be nominated as an additional representative to the LGA Fire Forum whilst undertaking RMB and LACC Chairs duties.

RESOLVED – that Councillor B Forster should be nominated as an additional representative to the LGA Fire Forum whilst undertaking RMB and LACC Chairs duties.

104.3 Nominations to the North East Improvement & Efficiency Partnership Community Engagement & Empowerment Programme's Member Sounding Board

RESOLVED – that Members confirmed the nomination of Councillor Forster as the CFA representative on the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Community Engagement and Empowerment Programme's Member Sounding Board.

104.4 CLERK'S INFORMATION PACK

- 104.4.1 Icelandic Banks
- 104.4.2 LGA Fire Forum
- 104.4.3 Delegation to Houses of Parliament – 29/10/08
- 104.4.4 New sletters
- 104.4.5 Feedback from Conferences
- 104.4.6 Standards Committee

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

105 REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

Assessment Criteria – Assessment/Review Sub Committees

The Legal Adviser outlined the Assessment Criteria for the Assessment/Review Sub-Committees of the Standards Committee which had been considered at the Standards Committee meeting on 18 November 2008. He informed Members that following the introduction of the Local Assessment and Determination process relating to allegations of Member misconduct it is necessary for the Standards Committee to have criteria in place in order to correctly identify and consider a complaint. Assessing all new complaints by established criteria should ensure fairness for both the complainant and the subject Member and will also protect the committee members from accusations of bias.

RESOLVED – that the Assessment Criteria for the Assessment/Review Sub-Committees be approved.

106 REPORTS OF THE TREASURER TO THE AUTHORITY

106.1 Treasury Management

The Treasurer reported that the Authority has taken a prudent approach in managing its investments and has had good returns on them. He reported that whilst existing investment arrangements are robust it is appropriate in the current climate to examine alternative arrangements for safeguarding the Authority's investments and asked Members to consider proposals for revising the existing Treasury Management Strategy. Three alternative options for managing the Authority's investments were discussed:

- Continue current stand alone arrangements
- Use investments to repay debt and/or delay new borrowings
- Pool investments with another Local Authority

The Treasurer reported that Treasury Management has always been a key area of financial management and an area which directly impacts on an organisation's financial health. This area is now a high profile issue for authorities as a result of the credit crunch and the situation with the Icelandic banks. Therefore, Treasurers and public bodies need to not only manage their Treasury activities effectively and prudently, but be seen to do so and this Authority currently achieves both objectives.

The report suggests that further improvements could be made by pooling the CFA's investments with Hartlepool Council which will spread the risk wider than we currently can. If Members approve this proposal the appropriate arrangements will need to be agreed with Hartlepool Council.

Following detailed discussions Members agreed that the favoured option would be Option 3.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **that the proposal to establish a pooled 'investment fund' with Hartlepool Borough Council be approved**
- (ii) **that authorisation be given to the Treasurer and Legal Adviser to complete the necessary legal arrangements for operating this fund**

106.2 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/2010 – 2011/12

The Treasurer informed Members that a review of the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) had taken place and there had been significant international and domestic changes since the current years budget was set. Many of these changes have been unprecedented and have resulted in the major economies of the world facing the most challenging position for many years. He advised that the CFA is largely insulated from these issues in the short-term owing to multi-year grant settlements and has benefited from higher investment income in the current year. In the Medium Term the CFA and public sector bodies will be affected by the recession and the impact will likely be delayed until the next Comprehensive Spending Review which will determine grant allocations for 2011/2012 onwards.

The Treasurer reported that the next Comprehensive Spending review will produce lower increases in public expenditure. For this Authority this is likely to mean a continuation of cash increases in grant of only 0.5%, or even cash frozen grants. At the same time the Authority will have less local flexibility as it will have used up its surplus balances to support the revenue budget. It is therefore essential that the Authority achieves planned efficiency savings of £1.75m by 1st April, 2010 and begins to develop a strategy for achieving further efficiencies in 2011/2012 and beyond.

The Treasurer reported that with regard to the 2009/2010 budget and proposed Council Tax level there have been no changes to the previous planning assumptions. The key aspect is the achievement of the 2009/2010 efficiency target and a detailed report will be submitted to the Authority in January 2009 to enable Members to set the 2009/2010 budget and Council Tax.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

107 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Forster wished to place on record her thanks to the crew from Redcar Fire Station who attended a fire in her ward and rescued a woman who was unconscious.

108 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006

RESOLVED - "That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006,

Minute No. 109 - Paragraphs 1 and 3

Minute No. 110 – Exec Minutes Paragraph 1, Policy Minutes Paragraphs 3 and 4

Minute No. 111 – Paragraph 3

Paragraph 1 – namely information relating to any individual

Paragraph 3 – namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information

Paragraph 4 – namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

109 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting held on 26 September 2008 be confirmed.

110. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 24 October 2008 and the Policy Committee Meeting held on 7 November 2008 be confirmed.

111. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

111.1 Outcome of the Feasibility Study into Outsourcing Technical and Support Services

Members noted the report and recommendations of the Policy Committee.

**COUNCILLOR PETER PORLEY
CHAIRMAN**

COUNCIL
12th February 2009



Report of: Constitution Committee

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT

1. Civic Honours Committee

Council agreed, on 26th October 2006, that nominations for election as Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman be considered by a Civic Honours Committee. At the meeting of the Constitution Committee held on 23rd January 2009, the composition of the Civic Honours Committee was discussed.

It was agreed that the Civic Honours Committee be appointed on an annual basis in line with other Council committees with an increased membership of 7 (politically balanced) plus the Mayor, the Chairman, 1 resident representative and 1 community empowerment network representative, the latter two being non-voting members of the Committee. In line with current proportionality, the membership for the Civic Honours Committee is proposed as follows:

The Mayor

The Chairman

7 Members (3 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Administrative Group and 1 independent)

1 Resident Representative (non-voting)

1 Community Empowerment Network Representative (non-voting)

Quorum: 6

Any recommendation made by the Committee, to Council, to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Committee (i.e. a voting majority of 6 Members is required)

Recommendation

That the composition, quorum and voting requirements relating to the Civic Honours Committee, as outlined above, be approved.

2. Annual Council 2009

The Mayoral election is scheduled for 4th June 2009 which is after the Annual Council meeting scheduled for 28th May 2009. Consideration was given to holding

the Annual General Meeting in June, post this year's Mayoral election. Members noted that the Annual Council meeting is usually held within 21 days of an election and suggested that this should also apply in this case. The Constitution only provides for the Annual General Meeting of the Council to take place in March, April or May depending on when local elections are held.

Recommendation

That the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Council be changed from 28th May 2009 to 25th June 2009.

COUNCIL REPORT

12th February, 2009



Report of: The Cabinet

Subject: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY – BUDGET
AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2009/2010 TO 2010/2011

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present details of the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (previously referred to as the Budget and Policy Framework). The report covers:
- Outturn Strategy 2008/2009;
 - Capital Budget 2009/2010 and Prudential Indicators;
 - Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2009/2010;
 - Budget Requirement and indicative Council Tax 2010/2011 to 2011/2012.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with the Constitution Cabinet is responsible for preparing the Budget and Policy Framework proposals, which includes the proposed Council Tax level for 2009/2010. These proposals are then referred to Council for consideration. The final stages of the budget timetable for completing this process and subsequently issuing Council Tax bills is extremely tight and the key dates are as follows:
- Cabinet 9th February, 2009 – approve Budget and Policy Framework proposals to be referred to Council;
 - Council 12th February, 2009 – consider Cabinet's Budget and Policy Framework proposals, including Hartlepool Borough Council's own Council Tax for 2009/2010;
 - Council 26th February, 2009 – approves overall Council Tax levels, including Fire and Police Authority precepts. This is the same day the Police Authority are scheduled to set their Budget and Council Tax, which is within the prescribed deadline for setting their Budget and Council Tax.

3. CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET PROPOSALS BY COUNCIL

- 3.1 As indicated above Cabinet will finalise the budget proposals, including the 2009/2010 Council Tax increase, it wishes to refer to Council at its meeting on 9th February, 2009. Accordingly, to enable all Members to familiarise themselves with the issues affecting next years budget a copy of the detailed 2009/2010 to

2011/2012 Budget and Policy Framework Report is included in a separate booklet with the agenda papers for today's meeting.

- 3.2 The key issues included in the Cabinet report have previously been considered by Cabinet at their meetings in October and December. These issues have also been referred to Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- 3.3 Once Cabinet have finalised their proposals a further report will, if necessary, be issued to Council to advise Members of any changes to the proposals detailed in the attached report.
- 3.4 The attached booklet also provides details of departmental budget allocations before any terminating grants pressures, priorities or efficiencies are considered by Council. Details of these issues are provided in the appendices to the Cabinet report as set out in Section A of the attached booklet.
- 3.5 In addition, to the specific proposals detailed in the Cabinet report, Council will also need to consider a range of statutory calculations to support the 3.9% Council Tax increase which Cabinet has previously indicated they will approve on 9th February, 2009. These calculations will also incorporate details of Council Tax levels for Parish Councils. These details will be circulated before your meeting on 12th February, 2009.
- 3.6 For Members information details of Council Tax levels for 2009/2010 with a 3.9% increase, before including figures for the Police and Fire Authorities, as set out in Appendix A.

4. ROBUSTNESS OF BUDGET FORECASTS, RISK ASSESSMENT AND RESERVES

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 2003 introduced new requirements to formally consider the robustness of the budget forecasts, the level of reserves and the proposed use of reserves as part of the budget setting process. In preparing the proposals for the 2009/2010 budget, Cabinet has considered and approved the advice of the Chief Financial Officer as detailed at paragraph 10 of the MTFs report.
- 4.2 This advice is equally relevant to Council when considering this report.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008/2009

- 5.1 In accordance with statutory requirements the Council is required to approve the annual Treasury Management Strategy and associated Prudential Indicators owing to the strategic and financial significance of this area of activity.
- 5.2 The key objectives of the Treasury Management Strategy are to provide a robust framework for managing the Council's Loans and Investments Portfolios to ensure the security of the Council's funds.
- 5.3 The proposed 2009/2010 Treasury Management Strategy and associated Prudential Indicators are detailed in Section C of the separate booklet issued with the agenda papers. This includes Prudential Indicators and limits for 2009/2010 to 2011/2012, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy and the Investment Strategy, which incorporates detailed investment criteria and counter party limits.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report provides the detailed information to support the 2009/2010 budget proposals which will be referred to Council by Cabinet following their meeting on 9th February, 2009.
- 6.2 Details of the issues Cabinet will be referring to Council are provided in Section A, paragraph 15 of the attached booklet issued with the agenda papers. A revised schedule will be issued before your meeting if Cabinet change any of these proposals.

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL TAX 2009/2010 (Excluding Police Authority & Fire Authority Precepts)

| COUNCIL TAX BAND | Areas without a Parish Council £ | Dalton Piercy £ | Elwick £ | Greatham £ | Hart £ | Headland £ | Newton Bewley £ |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| A | 922.74 | 952.54 | 931.28 | 925.31 | 929.70 | 928.04 | 927.24 |
| B | 1,076.53 | 1,111.29 | 1,086.49 | 1,079.53 | 1,084.65 | 1,082.71 | 1,081.78 |
| C | 1,230.31 | 1,270.04 | 1,241.69 | 1,233.74 | 1,239.59 | 1,237.37 | 1,236.31 |
| D | 1,384.10 | 1,428.80 | 1,396.91 | 1,387.96 | 1,394.54 | 1,392.05 | 1,390.85 |
| E | 1,691.68 | 1,746.31 | 1,707.33 | 1,696.39 | 1,704.44 | 1,701.39 | 1,699.93 |
| F | 1,999.26 | 2,063.82 | 2,017.76 | 2,004.83 | 2,014.34 | 2,010.74 | 2,009.01 |
| G | 2,306.84 | 2,381.33 | 2,328.18 | 2,313.27 | 2,324.24 | 2,320.08 | 2,318.09 |
| H | 2,768.21 | 2,857.60 | 2,793.82 | 2,775.92 | 2,789.09 | 2,784.10 | 2,781.71 |

COUNCIL REPORT

12th February, 2009



Report of: The Cabinet

Subject: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY – BUDGET
AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2009/2010 TO
2011/2012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present details of the final Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) proposals following the Cabinet meeting on 9th February, 2009.

2. CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET PROPOSALS BY COUNCIL

- 2.1 As indicated in the report issued with the main agenda papers Cabinet on 9th February, 2009, determined the final budget proposals which it wishes Council to consider. This report details the changes to the recommendations detailed in the Cabinet report. These issues are covered in the following paragraphs. Where reference is made to a paragraph number or appendix this refers to the document in the separate booklet circulated with the main agenda, unless otherwise stated.
- 2.2 The proposed changes reflect the unprecedented degree of change in the economy which Cabinet has had to adjust to and deal with when preparing the 2009/2010 budget proposals. The initial proposals detailed in the Cabinet report issued with the main Council agenda paper reflected the information available when the report was prepared.
- 2.3 The major change proposed by Cabinet relates to the withdrawal of the majority of the proposed additional 1% efficiencies/savings other than the proposals for the Chief Executive's Department of £53,000. Cabinet have proposed that the resulting gap of £767,000 be bridged as follows:

| | <u>£'000</u> |
|---|---------------------|
| Use the uncommitted resources identified in paragraph 7.9 | 520 |
| Reduce the 2009/2010 pay award and Job Evaluation provision | 250 |
| Small reduction in use of one-off resources | (3) |

- 2.4 The budget forecasts include a significant additional provision for expected pay awards and the cost of Job Evaluation appeals. If these risks are managed as a single pot the overall provision can be reduced by £250,000.
- 2.5 This proposal reflects the anticipation that pay awards will be lower than expected when the budget forecasts were prepared because the economic outlook has deteriorated further. It is clear the recession will last longer and be deeper than the Government, the Bank of England and most economists thought it would be just a few months ago. Against this background it is expected that pay awards in both the private and public sectors will be lower over the next two years.
- 2.6 Cabinet has also considered the position for 2010/2011, in order to protect services and minimise redundancies, whilst protecting the Council from risk has proposed making annual provisions for pay awards of 1.5%. On a cumulative basis this reduces the budget requirement for 2010/2011 onwards by £0.9m, which more than offsets the deletion of the additional 1% reductions and begins to address the structural medium term deficit.
- 2.7 The impact of these proposals on the budget position for the next three years is detailed below.

| | 2009/10 £'000 | 2010/11 £'000 | 2011/12 £'000 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revised Budget Deficit net of Business Transformation efficiencies (as detailed in paragraph 8.8) | 0 | 1,959 | 3,174 |
| Add - Deletion of additional 1% reductions | 767 | 786 | 805 |
| Less - Net Unallocated investment income/borrowing saving (paragraph 7.9) | (520) | 0 | 0 |
| Less - Reduction in provision for 2009/10 and 2010/11 Pay awards/Job evaluation costs | (250) | (900) | (900) |
| Decrease/(increase) in use of one-off resources (paragraph 4.7) | 3 | (75) | (135) |
| Revised Budget Deficit net of Business Transformation efficiencies | 0 | 1,770 | 2,944 |
| | | | |

- 2.8 A verbal update was also provided to Cabinet in relation to the following items:

- LABGI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive) Grant

On 4th February, 2009, we received a letter from the Local Government Minister setting out details of the final allocations under the old LABGI scheme. This letter stated that the Council will receive an additional **one-off** grant of just under £800,000.

This position will not be repeated in the future because the new LABGI scheme will only pay out a total of £120m, over a three year period,

compared to over £1 billion under the current scheme. We estimate the Council will receive £120,000 from the new scheme, but have not yet factored this into the budget as the position is still uncertain and the first grants will not be paid until 2010/2011.

Cabinet has proposed that the latest LABGI monies are not used to support the 2009/2010 budget as it is already planned to use reserves and one off measures of £5m to balance next years budget, which is the highest ever level. In addition, future budgets expect significant contributions from balances which are not certain. In particular, the budget forecasts already anticipated the receipt of £1m from RTB income, which we have not yet received and will probably not be received until after the recession is over. Cabinet has therefore proposed that the LABGI monies are earmarked to manage this risk.

- Neighbourhood Services 3% Efficiencies

Cabinet approved a number of revisions to the initial 3% efficiencies proposals. These include the deletion of some efficiency proposals which would have required compulsory redundancies with alternative proposals which can be implemented through natural wastage and/or voluntary redundancies. The revisions also include refinement of proposed efficiencies. These changes are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report and are highlighted with grey shading. The un-shaded lines are proposals which have not changed. An additional column has been added to show the change from the initial proposals, which is titled "09/10 Increase/(decrease) from initial proposals".

The Director of Neighbourhood Services is also proposing an additional efficiency on the Cemetery and Crematorium budget to help fund the capital investment in new cremators.

- Children's Services 3% Efficiencies

The proposed 3% efficiencies include two levels of administrative savings – one at £54,000 and one at £126,000. It was initially anticipated that the first could be made without redundancy and the second required up to five redundancies.

Unfortunately, the first level of reduction cannot be made without redundancy. In total, therefore, the Children's Services reductions in relation to Administrative support staff requires 7.5 rather than 5 redundancies.

- Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Costs

Recommendation 15.6 refers to the proposal to set aside £1.5m for BSF costs. The recommendation should also have referred to the proposal to set aside an additional £0.5m for the upfront costs of the procurement/contract letting stage of BSF. This amount can be funded

from lower borrowing costs/investment income in 2009/2010. This issue is detailed in paragraph 7.9(i) of the Cabinet report. This paragraph also advises Members that beyond 2009/2010 additional resources will need to be set aside for BSF costs. The amounts will depend on how much of these costs can be capitalised. Detailed assessments are ongoing and will be reported to Cabinet at each major stage of the BSF Programme.

- 2.9 As indicated in paragraph 10 of the Cabinet report the Chief Financial Officer has a statutory duty to advise Members on the robustness of the budget forecast. The Chief Financial Officer would advise Members that in the light of the deteriorating economic circumstances and the latest available information the proposals outlined in the previous paragraphs are prudent and should not adversely affect the robustness of the budget forecasts.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The proposals which Cabinet wishes Council to consider were detailed in Section 15 of the Cabinet report. These items are repeated below and proposals 3.6, 3.15 and 3.23 have been revised to reflect the updated proposals detailed in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.8 of this report. Where reference is made to a paragraph number or appendix this refers to the document in the separate booklet circulated with the main agenda, unless otherwise stated.

3.2 2008/2009 Outturn Strategy

- 3.3 Approve the proposal to earmark the increase in the stock of funds (paragraph 4.7), as follows:

- £400,000 to manage RTB timing risk;
- £639,000 to fund initial budget deficits for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011;
- £31,000 for Bus Services (note Council 11th December, 2008, approved £93,000 for Bus Services, including £44,000 for the Hospital Transport Service);
- £23,000 for one-off costs associated with the revised Legal Services restructure;
- £2,186,000 to support the 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 budgets.

- 3.4 Approve the proposals that capital expenditure up to the value of £2.6m which it was planned to fund from revenue budgets (RCCOs) and the Capital Funding Reserves should be funded from Prudential Borrowing. The resulting repayment costs in 2009/2010 will be funded by earmarking part of the 2008/2009 RCCOs and from 2010/2011 these costs will be a first call of the £1.5m budget headroom (paragraph 4.14).

- 3.5 Approve the proposal to earmark the revenue resources released from recommendation 3.4 to fund the 2008/2009 departmental overspends (paragraph 4.15).

- 3.6 Approve the proposal to earmark the 2008/2009 additional investment income firstly to offset income shortfalls during the recession, then £1.5m for Building Schools for the Future costs and £0.5m as a risk contingency for potential income shortfalls on the Tall Ships budget which may arise from adverse weather when the ships visit (paragraph 7.9). Approve the proposal to provide an additional £0.5m for the upfront costs of the procurement/contract letting stage of Building Schools for the Future, from anticipated lower borrowing costs and investment income in 2009/2010. In the event that the Tall Ships amount is not needed these resources should be returned to the General Fund in 2010/2011 (paragraph 4.22).
- 3.7 Approve the proposal to reallocate the saving of £37,000 on the 2008/2009 one-off items to partly meet the one-off capital costs of the Government Connects Project (paragraph 4.26).
- 3.8 **Capital**
- 3.9 Approve the proposal that Government capital allocations should be passported.
- 3.10 Approve the proposal to continue Capital Investment of £1.2m in local priorities for the three years 2009/2010 to 2011/2012, which will be funded from unsupported borrowing. Detailed proposals for 2009/2010 are set out in Appendix A, Table 1.
- 3.11 Approve the proposal to provide Capital investment of £1.2m in 2009/2010 to fund a range of health and safety property improvements and to delegate authority to Cabinet to approve the detailed proposals for using this amount.
- 3.12 Approve the proposal to use unsupported borrowings to support the following capital investment in 2009/2010 (paragraph 5.7).

£'000

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----|
| | Community Safety Initiatives | 150 |
| | Disabled Adaptations | 50 |
| | Neighbourhood Forum Minor Works | 156 |
- 3.13 Approve the principles for strategic land and property acquisitions subject to the appropriate Cabinet and Council approval of detailed cases (paragraph 5.11).
- 3.14 **2009/2010 Revenue Budget**
- 3.15 Approve the proposed 3% efficiencies detailed in Appendix C, including the revised proposals for Neighbourhood Services (Appendix 1 to this report) and to note the increase in redundancies arising from the achievement of the Children's Services efficiencies. Approve the proposal to repay associated severance costs over five years, subject to compulsory redundancies only being implemented after exploring redeployment of staff

to vacant posts, or posts temporarily filled using agency staff, where the person to be redeployed has the necessary qualifications, skills and experience.

- 3.16 Approve the revised net pressures etc., as detailed in the following appendices and the additional requirements identified in paragraph 6.24:
- Appendix D – Pressures
 - Appendix E – Contingency
 - Appendix F – Terminating Grants
- 3.17 Approve the proposed 2009/2010 allocations and 2010/2011 indicative allocations of the Area Based Grant detailed in Appendix G, including the use of £0.287m to support services/projects currently funded from the Council's core budget. Note that in the event that Council in February, 2009, do not approve individual ABG allocations the Council will need to underwrite such schemes for a three month period to enable Partners to comply with statutory redundancy timescales.
- 3.18 Approve the revised corporate planning assumptions for reducing the provision for pay awards by 0.5%, saving £0.2m (paragraph 6.42) and increase in the salary turnover target of £0.3m (paragraph 6.43).
- 3.19 Approve the reduction in 2008/2009 pressures, etc, of £50,000 (paragraph 6.44).
- 3.20 Approve the reduction in 2007/2008 pressures, etc., of £100,000 (paragraph 6.46).
- 3.21 Approve the temporary measures for reducing the budget gap from reduced Job Evaluation protection costs £0.2m (paragraph 6.49) and additional benefit subsidy income £0.2m (paragraph 6.50).
- 3.22 Approve the proposed 2009/2010 Council Tax increase of 3.9%.
- 3.23 Approve the proposal to bridge the net budget gap for 2009/2010 of £2.677m as follows and to note that this does not address the underlying structural budget deficit which will need addressing during 2009/2010:

| | <u>£'000</u> |
|--|---------------------|
| Allocate the Mill House Loan Repayment budget | 300 |
| Additional 1% efficiencies Chief Executive's Department | 53 |
| Final Council Tax Base and Collection Fund Benefit | 190* |
| Reduction in energy costs pressure | 30* |
| Temporary Investment Income | 300* |
| Use part of the uncommitted one-off resources | 1,554 |
| Reduction in Provision for Pay Awards and Job Evaluation costs | 250 |

* These amounts make up the £0.52m detailed in paragraph 2.3 of this report.

- 3.24 Approve the proposed indicative annual Council Tax increase for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 of 3.9% per annum.
- 3.25 Note the net Business Transformation saving anticipated for the period 2010/2011 to 2016/2017 (paragraph 8.3) and approve the principle of funding one-off Business Transformation severance costs (£3.14m) and one-off implementation costs (£0.68m) on a loan basis repayable over a five year period from the gross savings achieved from implementing the Business Transformation Programme.
- 3.26 Approve the principle of centralising transport and property maintenance budgets to facilitate the achievement of the relevant Business Transformation efficiencies.
- 3.27 Approve the proposal to make further representation to the Government about the floor damping adjustment and the adverse impact this has on the Council's financial position, in particular, the impact on the Council's ability to provide services for children, adults with physical or mental health disabilities and older people.
- 3.28 Approve the proposal to undertake a corporate review of pricing policies as part of the 2010/2011 budget process.
- 3.29 Approve the proposal to earmark the final LABGI Grant of £0.8m to manage the risk that future anticipated RTB income of £1m is not received before this money is needed to support future year's budgets.
- 3.30 Approve the following supporting amounts which must be calculated by the Council for 2009/2010 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and relevant regulations.

- i) Approve the net budgeted requirement of £88,399,685 (as summarised at Appendix 2 of this report) and for the purposes of Section 32(2), (3) and (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the following amounts be approved: -

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| | <u>£</u> |
| Aggregate Expenditure | 265,211,737 |
| Aggregate Income | <u>(176,812,052)</u> |
| Budget Requirement (inc Parish Precepts) | <u>88,399,685</u> |

- ii) Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable into the General Fund in respect of Revenue Support grant £9,345,348 and redistributed Business Rate Grant £40,488,845, increased by the amount the Council estimates will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund as its surplus in respect of Council Tax as at 31st March, 2009, £310,394 in accordance with

Section 97 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government Changes for England (Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits) Regulations 1995 as amended.

- iii) Being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year of £1,384.96.
- iv) Approve the contributions of £3,870, £5,434 and £1,000 made towards the expenses of Dalton Piercy, Elwick and Greatham Parish Councils to enable them to carry out the associated concurrent functions; and formally accept the following Precepts in relation to non concurrent functions and approve the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| | <u>£</u> |
| Dalton Piercy | 4,613 |
| Elwick | 5,152 |
| Greatham | 2,576 |
| Hart | 3,095 |
| Headland | 8,000 |
| Newton Bewley | <u>222</u> |
| Aggregate Amount (Section 34 (i)) | 23,658 |

- v) Being the basic Council Tax for 2009/2010 calculated in accordance with Section 34(2) for dwellings in those areas that have no parish precepts or other special items of £1,384.10.
- vi) The basic Council Tax for 2009/2010 calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) for dwellings in those areas that have parish precepts be as set out in Appendix 3, Table 1 (to this report).
- vii) The amounts of Council Tax at items (iv) and (v) multiplied by the proportions applicable to each category of dwelling in its area, in accordance with Section 36 of the Act be as set out in Appendix 3, Table 2 (to this report).

| Portfolio | Dept/ Div | Budget heading/ Cost Centre | Cost Centre Code | Corp Strategy theme | Description | Type of budget proposal | Efficiency Classification | Budget Value | | | | | Cost of efficiency saving £000 | Risk impact | Risk probability . | Risk score | Risk status | Rate the Diversity impact | All Diversity strand(s) | No Treat as contingency item | Staffing Impact | Other Comments |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------|
| | | | | | | | | 09/10 Final Proposal £000 | 09/10 Increase/(decrease) from initial proposal £000 | 10/11 £000 | 11/12 £000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NC | NSD PP | Pride in Hartlepool | | 5. Env | External Sponsorship for Pride in Hartlepool | Efficiency | | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1. Low | 1. Unlikely | 1 | Green | Neutral | All | No | 0 | | |
| APHS | NSD PP | Consumer Services | 36741 | 3. H&C | Savings in licensing operations based on income predictions / operational needs. | Efficiency | | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | amber | Neutral | All | no | 0 | There may be a risk if there are changes in these needs. | |
| APHS | NSD PP | Cems and Crems (36743) | | 3. H&C | Additional income by increasing burial and cremation charges by 10%. | Efficiency | | 55 | 11 | 29 | 13 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | amber | Neutral | ALL | No | no | | |
| Fin | | FM ex Property Services | | 5. Env | Restructure building maintenance and management section | Efficiency | | 30 | (5) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | amber | Neutral | All | No | 1 | | |
| NC | NSD TS | Road Safe | 36711 | 5. Env | Advertising and marketing within road safety section | Efficiency | | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | all | No | 0 | e.g. marketing of driver training scheme | |
| nc | NSD NM | Env | | 5. Env | Rationalisation of supervision of weekend working | Efficiency | | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | amber | Neutral | all | no | 0 | A review of weekend operations to be carried out to identify areas of efficiency and duplication | |
| NC | NSD NM | Waste Disposal | | 5. Env | Reduction of end market costs for the recycling of plastic and cardboard | Efficiency | | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1. Low | 1. Unlikely | 1 | green | Neutral | all | no | 0 | | |

| NC Portfolio | Budget heading/ Cost Centre | Cost Centre Code | Corp Strategy theme | Description | Type of budget proposal | Efficiency Classification | 09/10 Final Proposal £000 | 09/10 Increase/(decrease) from initial proposal £000 | 10/11 £000 | 11/12 £000 | Cost of efficiency saving £000 | Risk impact | Risk probability . | Risk score | Risk status | Rate the Diversity impact | Diversity strand(s) | Treat as contingency item | Staffing Impact | Other Comments |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| nc | NSD NM | Env Enforcement | 5. Env | Fine income generation through the introduction of dog control orders | Efficiency | | 10 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1. Low | 1. Unlikely | 1 | Green | Neutral | all | no | 0 | |
| nc | NSD NM | Neighbourhood Management | 5. Env | Restructure savings within Neighbourhood Management | Efficiency | | 86 | (6) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | amber | Neutral | all | no | 0 | |
| nc | NSD All | overall budgets | 9. OrgD | Cash freeze a range of budget headings at 2008/09 level. | Efficiency | | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1. Low | 1. Unlikely | 1 | Green | Neutral | all | No | 0 | |
| Fin | NSD PS | N/S facilities | 36278 | Reduction of one further member of FM team dealing with schools. Minimal risk. | Efficiency | Dept. | 30.0 | (2) | 0 | 0 | 56 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 1 | |
| APHS | NSD PP | Admin Civ | 36730 | Reduction in administrative IT support, saving in one post. | Efficiency | Dept. | 21.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1. Low | 2. Possible | 2 | Green | Neutral | All | | 1 | |
| NC | NSD NM | Grounds m | 36632 | Rationalisation of supervisory arrangements resulting in a reduction of two one posts. | Efficiency | Dept. | 24.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 1 | |
| APHS | NSD PP | consumer | 36741 | Reduction in one technical officers post, Low impact work can be absorbed by current team. | Efficiency | Dept. | 16.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1. Low | 2. Possible | 2 | Green | Neutral | All | | 1 | |
| APHS | NSD PP | Markets | 36745 | Markets supervision function to be transferred to neighbourhood management. Saving one part time post. | Efficiency | Dept. | 11.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1. Low | 2. Possible | 2 | Green | Neutral | All | | 1 | |
| NC | NSD NM | Street clea | 36291 | Modernisation of Cleansing and grounds maint function resulting in savings on vehicle usage. | Efficiency | Dept. | 19.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 0 | |

| Fin Portfolio | Dept/ Div | Budget heading/ Cost Centre | Cost Centre Code | Corp Strategy theme | Description | Type of budget proposal | Efficiency Classification | 09/10 Final Proposal £000 | 09/10 Increase/(decrease) from initial proposal £000 | 10/11 £000 | 11/12 £000 | Cost of efficiency saving £000 | Risk impact | Risk probability . | Risk score | Risk status | Rate the Diversity impact | Diversity strand(s) | Treat as contingency item | Staffing Impact | Other Comments |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---|
| NC | NSD PS | Asset and Property Management | | 5. Env | Reconfigure property management service with retirement of staff member | Efficiency | | 10 | (30) | 30 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | amber | Neutral | all | no | 1 | Reduced level of saving as reconfiguration of total environmental sustainability / energy functions is being considered |
| NC | NSD TS | Engineering | 36702 | | Removal of Principal Engineer post as part of the exercise to combine Building and engineering consultancy divisions. This achieved through normal retirement | Efficiency | Dept. | 18.0 | (27) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 1 | Reduced saving as this post is fee earning and will need to be replaced with a lower graded post |
| NC | NSD TS | Engineering consultancy | 36702 | | Combining building consultancy and engineering consultancy will result in the reduction in one managerial post. Minimal risk. | Efficiency | Dept. | 30.0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 1 | This restructure will take place on 31st October 2009 |
| APHS | NSD PP | consumer services | | | Reduction in one technical officers post, will require additional training within current team. | Efficiency | Dept. | 26.0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 1 | This post is to be removed following a voluntary redundancy application from the current post holder |
| NC | NSD TS | Admin BH | 36732 | | Transfer of one member of admin team to ENDORS function. This will be externally funded. | Efficiency | Dept. | 20.0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 1 | This funding is for 5 years |
| NC | NSD TS | Dial a ride | 16202 | | Increase charge by 50p per journey which will generate £15,000. A further £15,000 will be achieved from expenditure efficiencies on this service. | Efficiency | Dept. | 30.0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 4 | Amber | Neutral | All | | 1 | This increase has been suggested by the staff who drive the buses and will be fully consulted upon before any implementation a report will be presented to the Portfolio Holder |
| NC | NSD F&BD | Admin | | 9. OrgD | Revised reception arrangements at Church Street Offices releasing 0.5 FTE | Efficiency | | 0 | (10) | 10 | 10 | 0 | 1. Low | 1. Unlikely | 1 | Green | Neutral | ALI | No | 1 | This will still take place but the saving will be difficult to realise as it will be a further burden on DLO profits |
| NC | NSD NM | FM | | 5. Env | Restructure of Facilities Management Services | Efficiency | | 0 | (30) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1. Low | 1. Unlikely | 1 | Green | Neutral | all | no | 1 | Deletion of Catering Manager has taken place but the saving can only be shown as an increased profit on the DLO account at a very difficult time for catering |

| nc Portfolio | Dept/ Div | Budget heading/ Cost Centre | Cost Centre Code | Corp Strategy theme | Description | Type of budget proposal | Efficiency Classification | 09/10 Final Proposal £000 | 09/10 Increase/(decrease) from initial proposal £000 | 10/11 £000 | 11/12 £000 | Cost of efficiency saving £000 | 1. Low Risk impact | 1. Unlikely Risk probability . | Risk score | Risk status | Rate the Diversity impact | Diversity strand(s) | Treat as contingency item | Staffing Impact | Other Comments |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--|
| NSD NM | Grounds | | | 5. Env | Reconfigure schools grounds maintenance service releasing 0.5 FTE | Efficiency | | 0 | (10) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1. Low | 1. Unlikely | 1 | Green | Neutral | all | No | 1 | Will only be achieved through increased profits of grounds maintenance DLO |
| Total of revised 3% efficiencies | | | | | | | | 521.0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Additional Efficiency proposal to support Departmental Capital Investment

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------------|-------|------|---|------------|--|------|--|---|---|---|-----------|-------------|---|-------|---------|-----|----|--|--|
| AP HS | NSD PP | Cems & Crams | 36743 | 3H&C | New cremators are needed in 2010/11 at an estimated cost of £1m. An increase in cremation and burial charges will help fund the prudential borrowing, but further revenue funding is required. This will be funded by reducing costs. | Efficiency | | 19.0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2. Medium | 2. Possible | 1 | Amber | Neutral | All | No | | |
|-------|--------|--------------|-------|------|---|------------|--|------|--|---|---|---|-----------|-------------|---|-------|---------|-----|----|--|--|

| | 2008/2009 APPROVED BUDGET | 2009/2010 PROPOSED BUDGET | 2010/2011 PROJECTED BUDGET | 2011/2012 PROJECTED BUDGET |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £m. | £m. | £m. | £m. |
| <u>DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS</u> | | | | |
| Adult and Community Services | 30.257 | 30.816 | 31.465 | 32.257 |
| Chief Executives Department | 5.324 | 5.323 | 5.372 | 5.510 |
| Chief Exec. Rent Allowances/C.Tax benefit not subsidised | 1.331 | 1.364 | 1.398 | 1.433 |
| Chief Exec. - Rent Allowances Grant | (1.129) | (1.157) | (1.186) | (1.216) |
| Children's Services | 17.408 | 17.679 | 18.027 | 18.482 |
| Neighbourhood Services | 15.435 | 15.567 | 15.759 | 16.161 |
| Regeneration & Planning | 5.451 | 5.518 | 5.620 | 5.762 |
| TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS | 74.077 | 75.110 | 76.455 | 78.389 |
| <u>EXTERNAL REQUIREMENTS</u> | | | | |
| Magistrates, Probation and Coroners Court | 0.182 | 0.187 | 0.192 | 0.197 |
| North Eastern Sea Fisheries Levy | 0.020 | 0.021 | 0.022 | 0.023 |
| Flood Defence Levy | 0.045 | 0.046 | 0.047 | 0.048 |
| Discretionary NNDR Relief | 0.033 | 0.034 | 0.035 | 0.036 |
| <u>CORPORATE COMMITMENTS</u> | | | | |
| I.T. | 2.561 | 2.705 | 2.773 | 2.842 |
| Audit Fees | 0.337 | 0.345 | 0.354 | 0.363 |
| Centralised Estimates (Note 6) | 5.807 | 6.560 | 6.799 | 6.804 |
| Insurances | 0.369 | 0.378 | 0.387 | 0.397 |
| Designated Authority Costs | 0.087 | 0.089 | 0.091 | 0.093 |
| Pensions | 0.398 | 0.408 | 0.418 | 0.428 |
| Members Allowances | 0.346 | 0.355 | 0.364 | 0.373 |
| Mayoral Allowance | 0.075 | 0.077 | 0.079 | 0.081 |
| Emergency Planning | 0.091 | 0.093 | 0.095 | 0.097 |
| <u>NEW PRESSURES</u> | | | | |
| Prudential Borrowing Costs - Mill House | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.309 | 0.309 |
| Contingency | 0.022 | 0.023 | 0.024 | 0.025 |
| Planning Delivery Grant terminated | 0.114 | 0.117 | 0.121 | 0.124 |
| Strategic Contingency (note 1) | 0.846 | 0.838 | 0.929 | 0.952 |
| 2006/07 Final Council Commitments (note 2) | 0.046 | 0.047 | 0.048 | 0.049 |
| 2007/08 Provision for Grants/Pressures/Priorities (note 3) | 0.091 | 0.094 | 0.096 | 0.099 |
| Provision for Cabinet projects | 0.051 | 0.052 | 0.053 | 0.054 |
| Procurement savings | (0.308) | (0.316) | (0.324) | (0.332) |
| 2007/08 Efficiency Savings (Note 4) | (0.306) | (0.297) | (0.289) | (0.286) |
| LABGI income | (0.370) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Job Evaluation (Note 5) | 3.470 | 4.235 | 4.445 | 4.555 |
| Red. in non pay inflation from 3% to 2.5% not applied 08/09 | (0.126) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 2008/09 Corporate efficiencies | (0.254) | (0.261) | (0.267) | (0.274) |
| 2009/10 Efficiencies | 0.000 | (2.460) | (2.522) | (2.585) |
| 2010/11 Business Transformation Efficiencies | 0.000 | 0.000 | (2.088) | (2.140) |
| 2011/12 Business Transformation Efficiencies | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | (1.105) |
| 2009/10 Additional 1% reductions - Chief Executives Dept. | 0.000 | (0.053) | (0.054) | (0.055) |
| Headroom for 2009/10 Pressures | 0.000 | 1.500 | 1.538 | 1.576 |
| Headroom for 2010/11 Pressures | 0.000 | 0.000 | 1.500 | 1.538 |
| Headroom for 2011/12 Pressures | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 2.000 |
| Area Based Grant (Note 8) | 10.509 | 11.791 | 11.776 | 12.070 |
| New Burdens funded from Formula Grant | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 0.012 |
| Additional pressures identified above headroom 13.10.08 | 0.000 | 1.324 | 1.457 | 1.705 |
| Additional pressures identified since 13.10.08 | 0.000 | 3.155 | 2.773 | 2.843 |
| Review 2009/10 Proposed Pressures etc. | 0.000 | (0.545) | (0.536) | (0.550) |
| Area Based Grant Review (Appendix G) | 0.000 | (0.287) | (0.414) | (0.424) |
| 2009/10 Energy Pressure reduction | 0.000 | (0.030) | (0.031) | (0.032) |
| 2008/09 Pressures etc, Review | 0.000 | (0.050) | (0.051) | (0.053) |
| 2007/08 Pressures etc, Review | 0.000 | (0.100) | (0.103) | (0.105) |
| Benefit Subsidy income | 0.000 | (0.200) | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| TOTAL CORPORATE REQUIREMENTS | 24.147 | 29.886 | 30.058 | 31.753 |
| Parish Precepts | 0.021 | 0.024 | 0.025 | 0.026 |
| Area Based Grant | (10.509) | (11.791) | (11.776) | (12.070) |
| Contribution from Budget Support Fund and other reserves (note 9)) | (3.049) | (4.630) | (1.523) | (0.846) |
| Contribution form Stock Transfer Reserve | (0.200) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Lower Protection costs - release of reserve | 0.000 | (0.200) | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT | 84.487 | 88.399 | 93.239 | 97.251 |
| Council Tax Percentage Increase | 3.9% | 3.9% | 3.9% | 3.9% |
| Council Tax - base income | 36.736 | 38.255 | 39.747 | 41.297 |
| Formula Grant | 47.974 | 49.834 | 51.522 | 52.810 |
| Total External Finance | 47.974 | 49.834 | 51.522 | 52.810 |
| Collection Fund Surplus/(deficit) | (0.223) | 0.310 | 0.200 | 0.200 |
| BUDGET LIMIT | 84.487 | 88.399 | 91.469 | 94.307 |
| DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 1.770 | 2.944 |

NOTES

1) Strategic Contingency

| | <u>2008/09</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2009/10</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2010/11</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2011/12</u> <u>£'000</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2006/07 Contingency | 165 | 137 | 209 | 214 |
| <u>2006/07 Budget Pressures Year 2 costs</u> | | | | |
| Learning Disabilities Purchasing | 124 | 128 | 128 | 131 |
| Energy Costs 06/07 increase | <u>501</u> | <u>515</u> | <u>532</u> | 545 |
| <u>Children's Services</u> | | | | |
| - Community Facilities in Schools | <u>56</u> | <u>58</u> | <u>60</u> | 62 |
| | 846 | 838 | 929 | 952 |

2) 2006/07 Final Council Commitments

| | <u>2008/09</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2009/10</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2010/11</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2011/12</u> <u>£'000</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Contaminated Land | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| Celebration of Achievement Contingency | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 |

3) 2007/08 Provision for Grants/Pressures/Priorities

| | <u>2008/09</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2009/10</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2010/11</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2011/12</u> <u>£'000</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Priorities - Community Strategy/LAA capacity | 40 | 41 | 42 | 44 |
| Priorities - Members ICT | 46 | 47 | 49 | 50 |
| Priorities - Resourcing Scrutiny Function | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 91 | 94 | 96 | 99 |

4) Efficiency Saving 2007/08

This is net of £400,000 efficiency saving included within Adult and Community Services Budget and £100,000 efficiency saving included within Children's Services Budget arising from transport review completed in September 2007

5) Job Evaluation and Pay Award Provision

This provision is currently held corporately and the majority of this amount will be allocated to departmental budgets before 1/4/09. This will ensure budgets are being monitored on a robust basis from the start of the financial year. The net budget held corporately will be allocated to departments to meet the costs of successful appeals and other job evaluation changes, if such costs arise. In the event that the pay award is lower than expected resources allocated within departmental budget will be claw back.

| | <u>2008/09</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2009/10</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2010/11</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2011/12</u> <u>£'000</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Provision made in 2007/08 Budget Strategy | 2360 | 2780 | 3150 | 3230 |
| Provision made in 2008/09 Budget Strategy (including provision for Pay awards) | 1110 | 1455 | 1295 | 1325 |
| Total | 3470 | 4235 | 4445 | 4555 |

6) Centralised Estimates

| | <u>2008/09</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2009/10</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2010/11</u> <u>£'000</u> | <u>2011/12</u> <u>£'000</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Centralised Estimates Core Budget | 6399 | 6615 | 6557 | 6564 |
| Civic Centre Maintenance (Prudential Borrowing provision) | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Centralised Estimates saving SCE (R) replaced SCE (C) | (250) | (250) | (250) | (250) |
| Prudential Borrowing costs re. Contact Centre | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Prudential Borrowing costs re. Minor Capital Provision 06/07 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Prudential Borrowing Costs - Capital Strategy (note 7) | 200 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Contact Centre | (102) | (105) | (108) | (110) |
| LOBO Saving | (200) | (200) | (200) | (200) |
| Temporary Investment income | (740) | (300) | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 5807 | 6518 | 6799 | 6804 |

7) Prudential Borrowing Costs - Capital Strategy

This provision will support annual capital investment of £1.2m per annum and will enable the Council to address backlog capital investment needs.

8) Area Based Grant (ABG)

The Area Based Grant will be allocated as detailed in Appendix G to the main budget report.

9) Use and Value of Budget Support Fund

| | £'000 | £'000 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Balance as at 31st March 2008 | | 5,941 |
| Contribution from 2008/09 Outturn strategy | 3,225 | |
| Approved use 2008/09 | (3,049) | |
| Net Contribution 2008/09 | | 176 |
| Proposed use 2009/10 | | (4,630) |
| Proposed use 2010/11 | | (1,523) |
| Proposed use 2011/12 | | (846) |
| Shortfall to be funded from RTB receipts 2009/10 to 2011/12 | | (882) |

Detailed usage of reserves by year (supports above table)

| | 2008/09 £'000 | 2009/10 £'000 | 2010/11 £'000 | 2011/12 £'000 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CONT. FROM BUDGET SUPPORT FUND | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | 500 |
| CONT. FROM 07/08 UNDERSPEND | 423 | - | - | - |
| USE MARCH 2007 DISCOUNT | 626 | 674 | - | - |
| USE 2008/09 LABGI GRANT | - | 402 | 237 | - |
| USE OF 2008/09 OUTTURN RESOURCES | - | 1,554 | 286 | 346 |
| | 3,049 | 4,630 | 1,523 | 846 |

TABLE 1 - Council Tax For Parish Councils 2009/2010

| | Precept (1) | Parish Tax Base (2) | Parish Council Tax (3) [=(1)/(2)] | Basic Council Tax (4) | Billing Authority's Council Tax (5) [=(3)+(4)] |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>Parishes</u> | £ p | | £ p | £ p | £ p |
| Dalton Piercy | 4,613 | 103.2 | 44.70 | 1,384.10 | 1,428.80 |
| Elwick | 5,152 | 402.3 | 12.81 | 1,384.10 | 1,396.91 |
| Greatham | 2,576 | 668.1 | 3.86 | 1,384.10 | 1,387.96 |
| Hart | 3,095 | 296.5 | 10.44 | 1,384.10 | 1,394.54 |
| Headland | 8,000 | 1,006.9 | 7.95 | 1,384.10 | 1,392.05 |
| Newton Bewley | 222 | 32.9 | 6.75 | 1,384.10 | 1,390.85 |

TABLE 2 - Council Taxes For Each Property Band 2009/2010
(Excluding Police Authority & Fire Authority)

| <u>Parishes</u> | Council Tax Bands | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| | £ p | £ p | £ p | £ p | £ p | £ p | £ p | £ p |
| Dalton Piercy | 952.54 | 1,111.29 | 1,270.04 | 1,428.80 | 1,746.31 | 2,063.82 | 2,381.33 | 2,857.60 |
| Elwick | 931.28 | 1,086.49 | 1,241.69 | 1,396.91 | 1,707.33 | 2,017.76 | 2,328.18 | 2,793.82 |
| Greatham | 925.31 | 1,079.53 | 1,233.74 | 1,387.96 | 1,696.39 | 2,004.83 | 2,313.27 | 2,775.92 |
| Hart | 929.70 | 1,084.65 | 1,239.59 | 1,394.54 | 1,704.44 | 2,014.34 | 2,324.24 | 2,789.09 |
| Headland | 928.04 | 1,082.71 | 1,237.37 | 1,392.05 | 1,701.39 | 2,010.74 | 2,320.08 | 2,784.10 |
| Newton Bewley | 927.24 | 1,081.78 | 1,236.31 | 1,390.85 | 1,699.93 | 2,009.01 | 2,318.09 | 2,781.71 |
| Areas without a Parish Council | 922.74 | 1,076.53 | 1,230.31 | 1,384.10 | 1,691.68 | 1,999.26 | 2,306.84 | 2,768.21 |

COUNCIL
12th February 2009



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT

1. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committees) Regulations, 2001 and subsequently the Standards Committee (England) Regulations, 2008, provide that Standards Committees must ensure that at least 25 per cent of its membership are "independent members". As previously noted to Council, the 2008 Regulations also provide the criteria for the appointment of independent members, as follows:

- approved by majority of the members of the authority;
- advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of the authority, and in such other publications or websites as the authority considers appropriate;
- of a person who submitted an application to the authority;
- has within a period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment has not been a member or officer of the authority; or
- is a relative or close friend of a Member or Officer of the authority.

Following a publicity exercise, an application was forthcoming from Mr Ted Jackson, for appointment as an independent and therefore a co-opted member of the Council's Standards Committee. Mr Jackson also requested that he be considered for appointment as an independent member of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

Mr Jackson was interviewed for these positions before a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee, which convened on 16 December, 2008. The Committee have strongly recommended that Mr Jackson be appointed, subject to Council approval, in respect of these two roles. Indeed, Standards Committee viewed that Mr Jackson was "an ideal candidate" for appointment. Members are therefore asked to approve the appointment of Mr Jackson for a term of four years upon the Council's Standards Committee and also upon the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the appointment of Mr Ted Jackson as an Independent Member upon the Council's Standards Committee for a term of four years and as a Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

2. ADDITIONAL ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

In order to meet government set deadlines for the submission of three of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework plans (Youth Justice Plan and the Children, Young Peoples Plan and the Sustainable Communities Plan Local Area Agreement), Council is requested to approve the holding of an additional Ordinary Meeting of the Council on Thursday 26 March 2009 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

3. CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE

Subject to Council agreeing with the recommendation of the Constitution Committee to revise the composition of the Civic Honours Committee under item 11(i), nominations from each of the political groups for the places on the new committee will be required as follows:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Labour | 3 |
| Liberal Democrat | 1 |
| Administrative | 1 |
| Conservative | 1 |
| Independent | 1 |

I should be grateful for the relevant nominations.