

COUNCIL AGENDA



Thursday 1st March 2007

at 7.00 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre

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 meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2007 as a correct record (copy to follow).
6. Questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting 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.
8. To deal with any business required by statute to be done.

Public questions for Council

Meeting: 1 March 2007

1.	From: Mr Norman Roberts on
	To: The Mayor
	Question: Can you confirm that ALL citizen tax payers on the electoral roll, under the H.B.C. constitution of 3.9.2002 have the right to "contact their local councillor and elected mayor about any matters of concern to them" Part 1. Sect. 13

<p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 February 2007</p>

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor C Richardson) presiding

OFFICERS: Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
 David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
 Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, Councillors Akers-Belcher, D. Allison, S Allison, Barker, Brash, Clouth, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Henery, Hill, Iseley, Jackson, James, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, Lilley, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, Dr. Morris, Payne, Preece, Rayner, Shaw, Sutheran, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, D Waller, M P Waller, R Waller, Wistow, Worthy, Wright and Young.

147. INQUORATE MEETING

In the absence of a quorum of twelve Members of the Council, the Chairman declared that the meeting be adjourned and the business outstanding be referred to the meeting on 1 March 2007.

C RICHARDSON

CHAIRMAN

Member questions for Council

Meeting: 1 March 2007

1.	From: Councillor S Allison
	To: The Mayor
	Question: Could the Mayor outline any plans his council may have to commemorate the 25 year anniversary of the Falklands War?
2.	From: Councillor Lilley
	To: The Mayor
	Question: How many planning applications have been received for planning permission on allotment sites in Hartlepool since 1990?
3.	From: Councillor S Allison
	To: The Mayor
	Question: Could the Mayor confirm if it is true that at least two Councillors and a number of HBC staff travelled to Brighton last year in the hope of collecting an award? If this trip was made then what was the total bill for the trip? Including accommodation, expenses, travel, literature, exhibition stand, etc and the little mascot monkeys I have been told were made for the occasion?
4.	From: Councillor S Allison
	To: Councillor Richardson
	Question: As one of our representatives on the North East Assembly could the Chairman of Hartlepool Council please report on recent articles in some sections of the press that the unelected N.E Regional Assembly has recently moved from prestigious buildings on the Newcastle Quayside to the Team Valley Trading Estate in Gateshead. In doing so they have left behind many 100's of £1,000 in unpaid bills, including six years unpaid rent of £150,000. If this is true does this have implications for the council tax-payers of Hartlepool? who for several years have been contributing to the assembly. Will we have part responsibility for the unpaid bills?

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

8TH February 2007

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

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor C Richardson) presiding

COUNCILLORS:

S Allison	Barker	Brash
R W Cook	S Cook	Cranney
Fenwick	Fleet	Gibbon
Griffin	Hall	Hargreaves
Jackson	James	Kaiser
Laffey	Lauderdale	Lilley
London	A Marshall	Dr Morris
Preece	Rogan	Shaw
Sutheran	Tumilty	Wallace
D Waller	M P Waller	R Waller
Wistow	Worthy	Young

OFFICERS:

Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult and Community Services
Phil Warrilow, Assistant Director, Children's Services
Ewen Weir, Assistant Director, Adult and Community Services
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Officer
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Akers-Belcher, D Allison, Coward, Henery, Hill, Iseley, J Marshall, Payne, Rayner, Turner and Wright.

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Wallace (Chair of the Primary Care Trust (PCT)), Councillor Barker (employee of the NHS), Councillor Brash (employee of the PCT), Councillor

Fleet (relative employed by NHS), Councillor R Cook (relative employed by NHS) and Councillor D Waller (relative employed by NHS) all declared non-prejudicial interests in minute 130.

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

None

130. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Consideration was given to the following Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Ray Waller:-

"That the Council joins the Labour Group in deploring the decision of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in respect of University Hospital Hartlepool and to totally condemn the broken promises of the Blair Government. We demand that this decision be urgently reconsidered so that those promises, made by both the Prime Minister and the former Health Secretary John Reid, can be delivered in full.

Furthermore the Council reaffirm its commitment to health services that are accessible, accountable and of the highest quality in Hartlepool, for Hartlepool. It is vital that we resist any further migration of both jobs and services out of the town to Stockton and fight any downgrading of services at University Hospital Hartlepool.

Health services in Hartlepool must be both maintained and indeed improved. We need increased funding, better transport links, improved primary care in our communities, an immediate development of new and equipped health centres and improved terms and conditions for all health sector workers in the town. We must seek a full and comprehensive understanding of the NHS proposals for Hartlepool and a timetable for its investment programs.

The Council therefore resolve that the full powers of this Council's scrutiny process be employed to deal with these issues and that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee urgently set out a timetable for investigation, reporting back to Council at the earliest opportunity."

There was disappointment from Members that the outcome of the review into the provision of health services in Hartlepool, requested by the Secretary of State and carried out by Professor Sir Ari Darzi, had not been implemented in full. It was acknowledged that Members felt the residents of Hartlepool and the Easington district deserved the best possible health facilities and within easy reach of everyone. It was hoped that the recent withdrawal of some health facilities provided at the Wynyard Road Health Centre did not reflect the future provision of health facilities across the town.

There was concern from some Members about the feasibility of a scrutiny inquiry into this issue. It was noted however, that the scrutiny process had accomplished great success in previous inquiries and that it was important for the residents of Hartlepool that every possible avenue be explored to ensure the best possible facilities were provided in the future.

Amendment moved and seconded -

“The first paragraph of the motion be agreed but the remainder of the motion be deleted.”

Amendment put and lost.

Councillor Kaiser requested that his vote in favour of the amendment be noted.

Amendment moved and seconded -

“The first paragraph be amended to read:

This Council deplores the decision of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in respect of University Hospital Hartlepool and totally condemns the broken promises of the Blair Government. We demand that this decision be urgently reconsidered so that those promises, made by both the Prime Minister and the former Health Secretary John Reid, can be delivered in full.

Also that the last paragraph be amended to read:

That the Labour Group of the town immediately writes to the Prime Minister presenting to him statements made in this motion.”

Amendment put and lost.

The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Ray Waller indicated that he would write to the Prime Minister expressing the concerns of this Council, as set out in the motion, in relation to the proposed closure of the University Hospital of Hartlepool. It was agreed that a copy of this letter be attached to a future Council agenda for public record.

Motion put and agreed.

C RICHARDSON

CHAIRMAN

<p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 February 2007</p>

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Town Hall, Raby Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor C Richardson) presiding

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

COUNCILLORS:

Akers-Belcher	S Allison	Barker
Brash	Clouth	RW Cook
Coward	Cranney	Fleet
Gibbon	Griffin	Hall
Hill	Jackson	James
M P Laffey	Lauderdale	Lilley
London	A Marshall	Dr. Morris
Payne	Preece	Rayner
Richardson	Rogan	Shaw
Sutheran	Tumilty	Turner
D Waller	M P Waller	R Waller
Wistow	Worthy	Wright
Young		

OFFICERS:

Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Little, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement and Property Services
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Alistair Rae, Public Relations Officer
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

131. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors D. Allison, S Cook, Fenwick, Hargreaves, Henery, Seely, Johnson, Kaiser, J Marshall and Wallace.

132. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None

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

None

134. PUBLIC QUESTION

(i) Question from Mr Robert Bussey to the Mayor

Please explain why you have felt it unnecessary to make an entry in the Hospitality register in respect of the availability made to you of Wynyard Hall as the venue for your wedding? Did Sir John Hall attend the function?

Prior to the Mayor answering the question, Councillor S Allison indicated that he considered that the question was inappropriate and should not have been permitted to be put at the meeting. Councillor S Allison indicated that he would not participate in any debate on the question and left the meeting for the duration of the Mayor's response and the subsequent debate.

In responding to the question, the Mayor stated that there was only a requirement for him to register gifts and hospitality when he was not paying. As to who was invited to his wedding, the Mayor indicated that he did not feel it was anyone's business who or how was not invited to his wedding.

In a supplementary questions, Mr Bussey questioned how Wynyard Hall had been made available to the Mayor for his wedding when it was not available to the general public and why had the Mayor considered it appropriate to declare a dinner provided by Sir John Hall in 2004 but not to declare anything relating to his wedding.

The Mayor restated his previous response that he was only required to declare hospitality that he had not paid for himself. The Mayor reminded all Councillors that under the terms of the Members Code of Conduct they were required to declare any gifts and hospitality received. The Mayor indicated to Mr Bussey that if he had any concerns in relation to any declarations made, or not made, by Members of the Council then, in the first instance, the matter should be referred to the Council's Monitoring Officer.

135. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council held on 14 December 2006, having been laid before Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

136. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

None

137. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

Councillor Lilley referred to the minutes of Cabinet of 5 February 2007 and in specific the decision of Cabinet to keep the Eldon Grove Sports Centre open for a further three months. Councillor Lilley asked the Mayor what steps had been taken to advise the users of the Centre of the proposed closure and also if any future use for the centre could be found, would that give the centre a realistic, sustainable and economic future.

The Mayor responded by stating that the closure of Eldon Grove Sports Centre had been a decision of the Council taken at this time last year. Since that time, officers have had discussions with the groups who use the centre on a regular basis outlining to them the alternative accommodation/venues. The extension for three months was to allow any firm expressions of interest to come forward and to test the market to see who wants to use the centre and what for.

Councillor Lilley asked if those groups who had expressed an interest would be allowed to approach officers to seek assistance in preparing an appropriate bid.

The Mayor indicated that all groups who wished to take the management of the Centre on would be given an equal opportunity to do so. The Council would need to judge which of the proposals put forward was best equipped to take on the ownership and management of the site and buildings.

The Chief Solicitor clarified that as the building was in the ownership of the Council, there would be a point beyond which officers could not go in providing assistance. Officers' advice would have to be focussed on what was in the best interests of the Council not an outside organisation. Any group wishing to submit any proposal to the Council would be best advised to seek independent legal advice.

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

(i) Councillor Lilley to The Mayor

Is your understanding that Scrutiny undertaken by this local authority should be a) none political and b) open and transparent?

The Mayor stated in answer to a) and b); yes and yes.

Councillor Lilley in a supplementary question indicated that the original intention when scrutiny was set up by the government was that it would be open, inclusive and transparent. However, was the Mayor aware that there were meetings of scrutiny that were not minuted, held behind closed doors and which officers attended.

The Mayor indicated that the system sounded similar to that he operated with Cabinet informal briefings where Cabinet members discussed forthcoming reports and issues. The Mayor stated that he was confident that when scrutiny did meet it was open and transparent.

Councillor Lilley in his second supplementary question considered that the Council had a duty to maintain the original intentions of scrutiny. Members other than the Scrutiny Chairs had no knowledge of what was discussed in those meetings and asked of the Mayor thought that was satisfactory.

The Mayor stated that all Scrutiny discussions and recommendations were discussed in public. The system actively encouraged public involvement and while it had had some teething problems in the early days, the Mayor indicated that he was confident in the scrutiny process and the stronger links that were being developed between Cabinet and Scrutiny that had been shown through the extensive consultation on the budget.

Members expressed their support for the current scrutiny process and the Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee commented that the discussions held by the Chairs group were reported into the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

(ii) Councillor Gibbon to Councillor Peter Jackson (Performance Management Portfolio Holder).

It's now just over a year since the Council employed a Business Improvement Manager, whose job it was to find ways of saving the Council/Tax payers money.

I would like to ask Peter Jackson, just how much has been saved over the last year by creating this post?

Councillor Jackson stated that the Cabinet meeting of 22nd July 2005 highlighted the requirement to use business process reengineering to achieve efficiencies in Council operations and from the system developments in our ICT Strategy. It was identified that the capacity to address this in terms of skills and

time was not adequately available in-house. Cabinet agreed the principle of how BPR would assist.

The Cabinet meeting of 23rd September 2005 approved the establishing of a new post to plan, coordinate and implement a business process re-engineering programme, recognising a long-term commitment to business and service improvement that needed to be sustainable if efficiency targets set by Government were to be achieved.

Cabinet had considered a variety of options including the use of consultants but they felt that the direct employment of a specialist would provide better value and a more sustainable solution. The Council would then own the knowledge and it could be more effectively shared across the organisation with easy integration into other activities such as communications, performance management appraisals etc. Cabinet also approved that the post would be temporary until 31.3.07 with funding from the Way Forward budget.

A Business Improvement Manager commenced employment on a temporary fixed term contract on 2.1.06 and will leave the Council on 31.3.07 as planned.

The priorities for the programme were:-

- 1) To improve processes linked with the development of the Council's New Financial Management System (FMS).

The results of this were:-

- Identified improved processes in the FMS
- Identified savings in the changes to invoice centralisation which are proposed (approximately £80,000)
- Identified savings of £40,000 in Neighbourhood Services, now implemented.
- Wider savings across the Council will also flow from the development and implementation of new procedures

- 2) To contribute to efficiencies on the integration of key services into the Contact Centre

The results of this were:-

- Administrative functions of car parking reviewed to enable transfer
- Administration function of allotments to be transferred
- Community Centre Bookings to be transferred
- Proposals identified to manage benefits counter contracts
- Savings would accrue over time from the improved procedures and operations resulting from contact centre integration

- 3) To provide Business Process Reengineering Training

The results of this were:-

- Assisting in the knowledge transfer and "showing the way" in improving business processes.
- Over 90 managers and supervisors have been trained by the post holder.

External training provision would have cost approximately £9,000 for the basic training. Training materials and follow up support have also been provided which would have incurred additional costs. (Estimated savings £9,000)

- Training now part of the Council's "Be the Difference" Leadership and Management Development Programme.
- "How to BPR" guide produced and on intranet.
- Staff are now using BPR as an integral part of service reviews to achieve efficiency.

Councillor Jackson indicated in conclusion that savings had been identified, some have been implemented and some are in the planning stage reflecting "work in progress". Many of the benefits do not fit neatly into a financial year slot and are dependent on progress of IT systems and indeed in relation to the Contact Centre or the physical building itself.

It was important to dispel the simplistic impression created in the Media including representations that this post was to make savings. The cabinet report is the correct position in that the post was designed to facilitate cultural change that enables staff/departments to implement efficiencies. In the wider context the budget includes new efficiencies for 2007/8 of some £2.7m achieved from a combination of initiatives/strategies/departments and teams...almost everything we do as a Council is done through teams and not specific individuals.

Councillor Gibbon in his supplementary question asked Councillor Jackson for clarification of the figures quoted in that the Council had spent £37,000 in wages to save £12,000 and was it true that the employee's contract would not be renewed after 31 March 2007.

Councillor Jackson confirmed that as initially intended by the fixed term contract, the post would not be extended beyond 31 March 2007. The post was designed to look at Business Process Reengineering (BPR) and review the systems the Council had in place with a view to bringing about savings. The remit given to the post holder had been fulfilled. The savings quoted were those that could be identified in cash terms but there were wider savings through the implementation of new procedures and efficiencies. There was also the significant benefit of the training undertaken by the post holder.

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

Councillor Lilley to Councillors Barker and Wallace

When crime statistics are presented to the various Neighbourhood Forum Police Consultative Committees, how and where are the incidents of anti social behaviour reported to each forum and how happy are you that this reflects a true picture of the situation regarding ASB in each area?

Councillor Barker responded to the question

Councillor Lilley in a supplementary question indicated that the crime statistics for Greatham were relatively low but these statistics did not include recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB), these figures had to be requested. Was Councillor Barker confident we would get these figures in the future.

Councillor Barker commented that in the North area, the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum had requested those figures on a regular basis and was receiving them. If the South Forum wanted those figures as well, they would be provided.

138. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

(a) Report on Special Urgency Decisions in respect of the period from October to December 2006

The following special urgency decision was reported to Council:-

MEMBERS FROM WHOM CONSENT WAS OBTAINED	SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN	DECISION TAKER
Councillor James, Chairman of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	That the Council host the tall ships race in accordance with the bid and that the Chief Solicitor be authorised to approve the form of the agreement with the Tall Ships Races (Europe) Ltd.	Mayor

139. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

140. 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

None.

141. 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

None.

142. 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

None.

143. TO CONSIDER REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

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

Budget and Policy Framework 2007-8 to 2009-10

Councillor Payne (Finance Portfolio Holder) submitted for the Council's consideration, the budget and policy framework proposals of the Executive for 2007/08 to 2009/10. Councillor Payne outlined the proposals relating to the Outturn Strategy 2006/2007; the Capital Budget 2007/2008 and Prudential Indicators; the Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2007/2008; and the Budget Requirement and indicative Council Tax 2008/2009 to 2009/10.

A copy of the detailed 2007/2008 to 2009/2010 Budget and Policy Framework Report, which Cabinet considered at its meeting on 5th February, 2007, had been issued in a separate booklet with the agenda papers for the meeting. This report provided Members with the detailed supporting information to the budget proposals. Additional proposals relating to the earmarking of uncommitted LPSA Reward Grant of £568,000 to fund one-off commitments was also submitted.

The budget was commended to Council.

Amendment moved and seconded –

That the budget be referred back to the executive with a view that the Executive review the budget to reduce the proposed increase in Council Tax from 4.9% to 3.7% as being in line with the retail price index rise over the last twelve months.

Amendment put and lost.

Motion put and agreed.

RESOLVED – that the Budget and Policy Framework Proposals 2007/08 to 2009/10, as submitted to Council, together with the additional proposals submitted, be agreed, as follows: -

(Where reference is made to a paragraph number or appendix this refers to the Budget and Policy Framework 2007/2008 report, which was circulated within the separate booklet to the main agenda papers, unless otherwise stated.)

Outturn Strategy

1. Approve the proposed outturn strategy detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5.
2. Approve the proposal to earmark the one-off benefit from restructuring of the Authority's debt portfolio for costs associated with the Tall Ships, (paragraph 3.7).
3. Approve the self financing virement from the Strategic Health Authority Grant for Learning Disability reconfiguration of £300,000 (as detailed in paragraph 3 of this report)

Capital and Treasury Management

4. Approve the capital allocations identified at Appendix B, which incorporates the proposals detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.10 or the report.
5. Authorise the relevant Portfolio Holder to approve the detailed Capital Programmes for using the Government's Supported Allocations detailed in paragraph 4.1.
6. Approve the allocation of £0.369m from the 2008/2009 Corporate Prudential Borrowing allocation for the Multi-Storey Car Park to enable the appropriate contractual arrangements to be made and note this amount will not be spent until 2008/2009.
7. Approve the Prudential Indicators detailed at Appendix C.
8. Approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy, as detailed in paragraphs 4.21 to 4.28, including the establishment of an "Interest Risk Reserve" of up to 0.5% of long term debt.

2007/2008 Revenue Budget and Council Tax

9. Approve a 4.9% increase in Council Tax and subject to approval of this proposal approve the following supporting resolutions: -
10. Approve an increase in all departmental resource allocations of 3% and the resulting budget allocations as detailed at Appendix I, with specific top-up for terminating grants, specific pressures and/or priorities as detailed in (ii) to (iv) below.
11. Approve the allocation of resources for the terminating grant regimes detailed in Appendix D.
12. Approve the proposed budget pressures detailed in Appendix E.
13. Approve the proposed budget priorities detailed in Appendix F.

14. Approve the corporate efficiency initiatives of £1.1m detailed in paragraph 7.4.
15. Approve the permanent corporate savings of £1.359m as detailed in Appendix G, Table 1.
16. Approve the use of additional temporary corporate savings of £1.156m to reduce the 2007/2008 budget gap, detailed in Appendix G, Table 2.
17. Approve the use of £2.56m of reserves (inclusive of £0.5m from the 2006/2007 Budget Support Fund) to support the 2007/2008 budget.
18. Approved the proposed service efficiencies and savings of £1.904m as detailed in Appendix H, excluding the savings: -
 - from closing Eldon Grove, which will remain open until 30th June 2007 to enable alternative providers to develop proposals for the long term usage of this building. This proposal will require a budget provision of £15,000 and
 - the Art Gallery/TIC saving of £8,000; and
 - approve that the above items be funded from the contingency.
19. Approve the following supporting amounts which must be calculated by the Council for 2007/2008 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and relevant regulations
20. For the purposes of Section 32(2), (3) and (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the following amounts be approved: -

	£
Aggregate Expenditure	233,846,823
Aggregate Income	(154,756,321)
Budget Requirement (inc Parish Precepts)	79,090,502

21. Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable into the General Fund in respect of Revenue Support grant £6,249,711 and redistributed Business Rate Grant £37,240,421, 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, 2007, £254,000 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.
22. 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 £1,282.92.
23. Approve the contributions of £3,447, £5,200 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.

	£
Dalton Piercy	4,717
Elwick	4,930
Greatham	2,800
Hart	2,500
Headland	6,000
Newton Bewley	270
Aggregate Amount (Section 34 (i))	21,217

24. Being the basic Council Tax for 2007/2008 calculated in accordance with Section 34(2) for dwellings in those areas that have no parish precepts or other special items of £1,282.15.
25. The basic Council Tax for 2007/2008 calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) for dwellings in those areas that have parish precepts be as set out in Appendix 1, Table 1 (to this report).
26. 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 1, Table 2 (to this report).
27. 2008/2009 and 2009/10 Revenue Budget and Council Tax
28. Approves indicative annual Council Tax increases for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 of 4.9%.
29. Note that Cabinet will prepare options for bridging the 2008/2009 budget gap and will submit these to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee by the end of September, 2007.
30. Approve the calling of an additional ordinary Council meeting on 1st March 2007 to enable the Council to set the overall Council Tax, including Police and Fire precepts.
31. Approve the proposal to earmark the uncommitted LPSA Reward Grant of £568,000 to fund one-off commitments as follows:

	£'000
<u>One-off pressures</u>	
Tree works after tree survey	40
Verge maintenance Tree works	60
Allotment maintenance backlog	20
Headland Paddling Pool and adventure play area maintenance	8
Burn Valley drainage repairs	15
Carefirst Upgrade to v6 web-based system	56
Outdoor Play area maintenance backlog	20
Community Strategy/LAA	40
Housing Needs survey	30
Housing Condition survey	50
Repair costs of Incinerator	50
	389
<u>Other</u>	
Termination costs provision	179
Total Commitments	568

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

None.

144. TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED

None.

145. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 85 - NON-ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

The Chief Executive reported that as Members were aware, Councillor Iseley had recently been unable to attend any relevant Council meeting by reason of his ill-health. Continued non-attendance up to 14th March, 2007 would result in his disqualification from continuing to be a Member, unless, before that date, the reason for his non-attendance is approved by the Council. Serious illness clearly is a justifiable reason for non-attendance and it was, therefore, recommended that approval is given for Councillor Iseley's non-attendance by reason of his illness.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Iseley's non-attendance at meetings of the Council beyond 14 March 2007 be approved on the grounds of his continued ill health.

C RICHARDSON

CHAIRMAN

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
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

Formal Council Tax Setting 2007/2008 – Incorporation of Fire and Police Authorities Precepts
 - (b) Proposals for departures from the budget and policy framework

None
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 REPORT

1st March 2007



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: FORMAL COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2007/2008 –
INCORPORATION OF FIRE AND POLICE
AUTHORITIES PRECEPTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable Council to set the overall level of Council Tax following the notification by the Police and Fire Authorities of their Council Tax levels for 2007/2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At your meeting on 15th February 2007, Members consider and approved the proposed 2007/2008 Budget and Policy Framework and this Authority's own Council Tax level. In accordance with statutory requirements the Council then needs to approve the overall Council Tax, inclusive of the Police and Fire Authority precepts. The Fire Authority set its precept and Council Tax on 9th February 2007, and the Police Authority is scheduled to set its precept and Council Tax on the 23rd February 2007.

3. DETERMINATION OF OVERALL COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- 3.1 The determination of the overall Council Tax level is a statutory function, which brings together the individual Council Tax levels determined by this Council, Cleveland Police Authority, Cleveland Fire Authority and where applicable Parish Councils.
- 3.2 A detailed schedule of the statutory Council Tax calculation incorporating the Police and Fire Authority Council Tax levels for 2007/2008 will be circulated as soon as the relevant details are received from the Police Authority, or if this is not possible details will be circulated at your meeting on 1st March 2007.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Council is asked to approve the following recommendation: -
- i) The amount of Council Tax including the Cleveland Police Authority and Cleveland Fire Authority precepts, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the relevant inclusion of amounts of Council Tax for each category of dwelling in accordance with Sections 43 to 47 of the Act, as set out in Appendix A, Table 4 (to be circulated separately).

SCHEDULE OF DETAILED COUNCIL TAX CALCULATIONS IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA ITEM 13 (a)**TABLE 1 - Council Tax For Parish Councils 2007/2008**

	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	4,717	107.9	43.72	1,282.15	1,325.87
Elwick	4,930	384.2	12.83	1,282.15	1,294.98
Greatham	2,800	667.8	4.19	1,282.15	1,286.34
Hart	2,500	294.9	8.48	1,282.15	1,290.63
Headland	6,000	1,020.4	5.88	1,282.15	1,288.03
Newton Bewley	270	30.1	8.97	1,282.15	1,291.12

**TABLE 2 - Council Taxes For Each Property Band 2007/2008
(Excluding Police Authority & Fire Authority)**

<u>Parishes</u>	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Dalton Piercy	883.91	1,031.23	1,178.55	1,325.87	1,620.50	1,915.14	2,209.78	2,651.73
Elwick	863.32	1,007.21	1,151.10	1,294.98	1,582.75	1,870.52	2,158.31	2,589.96
Greatham	857.57	1,000.49	1,143.42	1,286.34	1,572.19	1,858.05	2,143.91	2,572.69
Hart	860.42	1,003.82	1,147.23	1,290.63	1,577.43	1,864.24	2,151.05	2,581.25
Headland	858.69	1,001.80	1,144.92	1,288.03	1,574.26	1,860.48	2,146.72	2,576.06
Newton Bewley	860.75	1,004.21	1,147.66	1,291.12	1,578.03	1,864.95	2,151.87	2,582.24
Areas without a Parish Council	854.77	997.23	1,139.69	1,282.15	1,567.07	1,851.99	2,136.92	2,564.30

TABLE 3 - Council Taxes (Police Authority & Fire Authority) 2007/2008

	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Police Authority *	105.40	122.97	140.54	158.10	193.24	228.37	263.51	316.21
Fire Authority **	37.30	43.52	49.73	55.95	68.38	80.82	93.25	111.90

* Police Authority approved Council Tax increase 4.9% on 23/02/07.

** Fire Authority approved Council Tax increase 4.5% on 9/02/07.

**TABLE 4 - Council Taxes For Each Property Band 2007/2008
(Including Police Authority & Fire Authority)**

<u>Parishes</u>	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Dalton Piercy	1,026.61	1,197.72	1,368.82	1,539.92	1,882.12	2,224.33	2,566.54	3,079.84
Elwick	1,006.02	1,173.70	1,341.37	1,509.03	1,844.37	2,179.71	2,515.07	3,018.07
Greatham	1,000.27	1,166.98	1,333.69	1,500.39	1,833.81	2,167.24	2,500.67	3,000.80
Hart	1,003.12	1,170.31	1,337.50	1,504.68	1,839.05	2,173.43	2,507.81	3,009.36
Headland	1,001.39	1,168.29	1,335.19	1,502.08	1,835.88	2,169.67	2,503.48	3,004.17
Newton Bewley	1,003.45	1,170.70	1,337.93	1,505.17	1,839.65	2,174.14	2,508.63	3,010.35
Areas without a Parish Council	997.47	1,163.72	1,329.96	1,496.20	1,828.69	2,161.18	2,493.68	2,992.41

COUNCIL

1 March 2007



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT

1. **CO-OPTION OF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUMS**

Two resident representative vacancies exist on the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum, one position has been vacant since the elections in October 2006 and the second has occurred due to the recent resignation of John Lynch as a resident representative. Two new resident representatives have been selected and they are -

Don Davis on (Brus Ward)
Irene Nelson (Dyke House Ward)

Council is requested to confirm the cooption of the two new elected resident representatives.

COUNCIL
1 March 2007



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT (2)

2. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The public announcement of the results of the national CPA reassessment for 2006 was made on 22nd February 2007. The Council have again been rated as 4* (the highest possible rating) and improving well.

The Council has also recently undergone a full Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review. The results of this exercise will not be reported until 13th March 2007

3. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2007 - MOTION

As agreed at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 8th February 2007, the Chief Executive has written to the Secretary of State expressing the concerns of the Council, as set out in the motion, in relation to the proposed closure of the University Hospital of Hartlepool. A copy of that letter is attached to the agenda as a public record (Appendix A).

CEX/PW/JAH

22 February 2007

Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

Dear Secretary of State

Members of the Council are extremely disappointed that following the recent review by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel into the provision of health services in Hartlepool, the report commissioned by your predecessor Secretary of State from Professor Sir Ari Darzi, will not be implemented in full. The Council remains firmly of the opinion that the residents of Hartlepool and our neighbours in Easington deserved the best possible health facilities, within easy reach of all.

A special Council meeting was held on 15 February and, following a full, frank and passionate debate, Council resolved as follows:-

"This Council deplores the decision of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in respect of University Hospital Hartlepool and totally condemns the broken promises of the Blair Government. We demand that this decision be urgently reconsidered so that those promises, made by both the Prime Minister and the former Health Secretary John Reid, can be delivered in full.

Furthermore the Council reaffirms its commitment to health services that are accessible, accountable and of the highest quality in Hartlepool, for Hartlepool. It is vital that we resist any further migration of both jobs and services out of the town to Stockton and fight any downgrading of services at University Hospital Hartlepool.

Health services in Hartlepool must be both maintained and indeed improved. We need increased funding, better transport links, improved primary care in our communities, an immediate development of new and equipped health centres and improved terms and conditions for all health sector workers in the town. We must seek a full and comprehensive understanding of the NHS proposals for Hartlepool and a timetable for its investment programs.

The Council therefore resolve that the full powers of this Council's scrutiny process be employed to deal with these issues and that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee urgently set out a timetable for investigation, reporting back to Council at the earliest opportunity."

Hartlepool Borough Council respectfully requests that on the basis of the above resolution, you urgently consider re-instating the full range of health services within Hartlepool.

Yours sincerely

Paul Walker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

cc Stuart Drummond, Mayor of Hartlepool
 Councillor Carl Richardson, Chairman of the Council

Councillors D Allison, S Allison, Barker, Belcher, Brash, Clouth, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Henery, Hill, Iseley, Jackson, James, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, Lilley, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, Morris, Payne, Preece, Rayner, Rogan, Shaw, Sutheran, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, D Waller, M P Waller, R Waller, Wistow, Worthy, Wright, and Young