

TYNE AND WEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
the TYNE AND WEAR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT JOINT COMMITTEE
held in the Board Room at the Company
Offices of the Tyne and Wear
Development Company Ltd., Investor
House, Colima Avenue, Sunderland
Enterprise Park, Sunderland on
THURSDAY, 24TH JUNE, 2010 at
1.00 p.m.

PART I

Present:-

Councillor M.F. Henry in the Chair	- Gateshead Council
Councillor M. Gannon	- Gateshead Council
Councillor F. Anderson	- Sunderland City Council
Councillor R. Armstrong	- Newcastle City Council
Councillor H.E. McAtominey	- South Tyneside Council
Councillor A. Kerr	- South Tyneside Council
Councillor L. Goveas	- North Tyneside Council

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.

Appointment of Chairman

1. RESOLVED that Councillor P. Watson be appointed Chairman for the ensuing period to the next Annual Meeting of the Joint Committee.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors P. Watson, Allan, Goldsworthy, Wallace and Mayor Arkley.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

2. RESOLVED that Councillor Henry be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee for the ensuing period to the next Annual Meeting of the Joint Committee.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

3. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Committee held on 18th March, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Membership of the Joint Committee 2010/2011

The Secretary submitted a report to the Joint Committee detailing appointments made for the year 2010/2011.

Considering having been given to the matter, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the appointments made by the Constituent Councils of the Joint Committee for 2010/2011 be noted.

Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings 2010/2011

The Secretary submitted a report concerning the proposed cycle of meetings of the Joint Committee for 2010/2011.

5. RESOLVED that the meeting dates be approved.

Internal Audit Annual Report 2009/2010

The Head of Internal Audit submitted a report to provide details of the performance of the Internal Audit Service provided to the Joint Committee during the year and to give an overall opinion of the soundness of Internal Control Environment in relation to the Joint Committee.

Members were advised that the Operational Plan included one audit, the annual review of the Governance arrangements in place required to complete an element of the 'small bodies annual return'.

The draft report was issued within 3 days with only two low risk recommendations being made.

The report provided details of the Performance of the Internal Audit Service and provided assurance that the Service was being delivered in accordance with statutory responsibilities and was continually seeking to improve performance.

The report concluded that overall there remained a sound Internal Control Environment in place in relation to the Joint Committee.

6. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit Services 2009/2010

The Treasurer to the Joint Committee submitted a report setting out the findings of the Annual Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended 2006).

The Audit Commission found that

“there continue to be robust arrangements in place to comply with the Code’s Standards. Our detailed review of files did not highlight any significant non-compliance with IAS’s Quality System or the Code.”

It was therefore concluded that it was an effective Service that met the required standards.

It was:-

7. RESOLVED that the findings of the review for 2009/2010 set out in Section 4, be noted.

Annual Governance Statement for 2009/2010

The Treasurer to the Joint Committee submitted a report providing details of the findings of the Annual Review of the Governance and Internal Control arrangements in place for the Joint Committee. The report included the draft Annual Governance Statement for consideration and approval, prior to its incorporation into the Annual Return.

The Finance Officer advised Members that Internal Audit carried out one audit during 2009/2010 and the minor recommendations made had been accepted and implemented by management.

The evidence in the year would support the view that the system of Internal Control was effective and no matters had arisen to report to the Committee. The Annual Governance Statement had been prepared taking into account the above evidence and by also taking into account guidance provided by CIPFA’s Framework ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government’. Members referred to the document appended to the report.

Consideration having been given to the matter, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the findings of the Annual Review and the draft Annual Governance Statement be approved.

Annual Return and Accounts for 2009/2010 (Subject to Audit)

The Treasurer to the Committee submitted a report providing an Annual Return and Accounts for 2009/2010, for approval.

Members referred to Appendix 1 – the Annual Return and were advised that Auditors would commence the audit once the Committee had formally approved the Annual Return based on its Accounts (Subject to Audit) and the appropriate statutory notice of inspection of accounts had been given to residents of Tyne and Wear.

During the year the Income and Expenditure Account showed a small surplus for the year of £2,086 which increased reserves to a total of £1,847,991 at the year end after taking into account the awarding of grants and loans of £11,000 in 2009/10.

Referring to page 49 – Schedule of Loans Outstanding as at 31st March, 2010 the Treasurer advised that Company NLG Ltd had gone into administration and as £5,699 had been recovered from the Company, the balance of £119,301 had been written off as there was no prospect of any further monies being recovered.

It was:-

9. RESOLVED that the Annual Return (Subject to Audit) for the financial year ended 31st March, 2010 and the Statement of Accounts 2009/2010 (Subject to Audit), be approved.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it involved a likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons (including the Authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 3).

(Signed) M.F. HENRY,
Vice - Chairman.