

## **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 Limited, Investor  
House, Colima Avenue, Sunderland  
Enterprise Park, Sunderland on  
WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2012 at  
10.30 a.m.

### **PART I**

#### **Present:-**

Councillor P. Watson (in the Chair)	-	Sunderland City Council
Councillor M. Speding	-	Sunderland City Council
Councillor B. Goldsworthy	-	Gateshead Council
Mayor L. Arkley	-	North Tyneside Council
Councillor J. Wallace	-	North Tyneside Council
Councillor S. Mortimer	-	North Tyneside Council

#### **Appointment of Chairman**

1. RESOLVED that Councillor P. Watson be appointed Chairman of the Joint Committee 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 Henry, Gannon, Haley, Johnson and N. Forbes.

#### **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.

#### **Minutes**

3. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

#### **Membership of the Joint Committee 2012/2013**

The Secretary submitted a report to the Joint Committee detailing appointments made for the year 2012/2013.

Members acknowledged that South Tyneside Council were still to make their nominations.

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

4. RESOLVED that the appointments made by the Constituent Councils of the Joint Committee for 2012/2013 be noted.

### **Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings 2012/2013**

The Secretary submitted a report concerning the proposed cycle of meetings of the Joint Committee for 2012/2013.

5. RESOLVED that the meeting dates be approved.

### **Annual Governance Statement for 2011/2012**

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 also included the draft Annual Governance Statement for consideration and approval, prior to its incorporation into the Annual Return for 2011/2012.

The Treasurer advised the committee that the internal audit service carried out 1 audit during 2011/2012 and the minor recommendations made had been accepted and implemented by management. The internal auditors did not report any material weaknesses in the system of internal or financial control and concluded that there were robust arrangements in place to comply with the Code.

Members noted that the risks had been re-assessed and audited (Appendix 1) and all risks identified were assessed as low risk.

The Annual Governance Statement was attached at Appendix 2 of the report.

6. RESOLVED that the findings of the annual review be noted and the draft Annual Governance Statement be approved.

### **Statement of Accounts and Annual Return 2011/12 (Subject to Audit)**

The Treasurer to the Joint Committee submitted a report to provide an Annual Return and Statement of Accounts for 2011/2012 (subject to audit), for approval by Members in accordance with current regulations that apply to smaller public bodies.

The Treasurer referred Members of the committee to the Annual Return (Appendix 1a) which reflected the Statement of Accounts (Appendix 1b).

Members of the committee were advised that Internal Audit had reviewed the Annual Governance Statement and were happy with its contents (which had been approved earlier on the agenda).

As the Statement of Accounts was subject to audit, they would be submitted to the September meeting for final approval, once externally audited, in order to comply with the 30<sup>th</sup> September statutory deadline.

The Income and Expenditure Account showed a deficit for the year of £119,530 which had in turn reduced reserves to a total of £1,661,761 at the end of the year, after taking into account the awarding of grants and loans of £108,360 in 2011/12.

Councillor Wallace referred to the Investment Funds (£700,000) held with Santander UK Plc (formerly Abbey National) and questioned their security in light of the troubled Spanish economy and the fact Spanish banks were seeking financial support. The Finance Officer responded by advising that as this was a UK registered bank, funds were deemed to be secure based on current credit rating details and other financial data on the bank's performance and also pointed to the fact that the FSA would not allow this subsidiary of Santander Spain to provide financial assistance should it be requested. The bank's performance however was being reviewed on a regular basis and as the funds invested were held on a short term notice this meant the investment could be withdrawn quickly should this prove necessary.

The credit rating of Santander was also under regular monitoring from a Treasury Management perspective and the Company was currently deemed to be satisfactory. Moving the funds elsewhere could result in a lower rate of interest but the Treasurer agreed to review the position accordingly.

7. RESOLVED that the Annual Return (Subject to Audit) and the Statement of Accounts (Subject to Audit) for the financial year ended 31 March 2012 be approved.

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

8. 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).

#### **Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to business during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items of business are included in Part II.

(Signed) P. WATSON,  
Chairman.

