

**At a meeting of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 15TH JUNE, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor S. Watson in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Errington, Foster, Essl, Kay, Maddison, McClennan, Rolph and A. Wilson.

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor I. Richardson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 27th April, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April, 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2010-2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided background information to assist Members in determining the Committee's annual Work Programme for 2010/2011 and its main theme for a detailed policy review.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Consideration was given to the matter with Members highlighting the following issues:-

- the need for the Work Programme to take account of any amendments to the remit of the current Cabinet portfolios;
- the chosen policy review topic should be something that touched across every ward in the City, bringing everyone to the table allowing a broad dynamic;
- a number of the proposed topics could be amalgamated e.g. the availability of mortgages with empty properties, the accessibility of leisure and sports

facilities with the play and urban games strategy, the low carbon economy with sustainability of the City Centre and City Heritage with Art and Culture;

- the Heritage update scheduled in the Work Programme for 16th November, 2010 should also include an assessment of the heritage of the built environment;
- a watching brief would need to be kept on the effect of the change in Government. Concern was expressed that free swimming sessions for children and over sixties may be threatened.

With regard to the Work Programme, Alan Caddick advised that in relation to the topics of the availability of mortgages and empty property he could combine these in a quarterly report for Members. He also reassured the Committee that it would also receive all housing reports that were due to be submitted to Cabinet. In response to an enquiry from Councillor Rolph regarding affordable housing and the private sector, Mr. Caddick advised that the affordable housing policy was currently in draft form. It was being worked up in conjunction with the LDF core strategy and could be slotted into the Work Programme if Members wish to consider it.

Julie Gray, Head of Community Services, confirmed that she would schedule the Sport and Leisure Annual Report into the Work Programme for February 2010. This would include an impact analysis of the affordable pricing policy and access to leisure. In response to an enquiry from Councillor Errington she confirmed that the report would include an assessment of the usage of the 50 metre pool and how the elite programmes were developing.

Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, advised that once Members had selected a topic for review, he would submit a scoping report to their next meeting. This would include the terms of reference, definitions, links to corporate goals, partnerships, the national and local context and proposals for gathering evidence.

2. RESOLVED that the topics of City Heritage and Art and Culture be combined to form the Committee's main theme for a detailed policy review for 2010/2011.

Request to Attend Seminar – Centre for Public Scrutiny 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested that the Committee consider nominating a delegate to attend the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held at the Brewery, London on 30th June and 1st July, 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that approval be given to the attendance of Councillor Susan Watson at the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held at the Brewery, London on 30th June to 1st July, 2010.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st June – 30th September, 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st June – 30th September, 2010 which related to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Errington referred to item 01430 'To formally endorse the Wearmouth-Jarrow World Heritage Site Nomination file prior to presentation to the Secretary of State'. He asked that the matter be reported to the Committee prior to its submission to Cabinet in October. In addition he asked that the report included an assessment of the South Tyneside perspective.

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the Forward Plan be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) S. WATSON,
Chairman.