

**At a meeting of the PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Mordey in the Chair

Councillors Bell, I. Cuthbert, P. Gibson, Old, Snowdon, A. Wright and T. Wright.

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Councillors P. Gibson, Snowdon and T. Wright who were attending their first meeting as members of the Committee. He paid tribute to the former members of the Committee for their dedication and contributions to the Work Programme, including Councillor Speding who had now taken up the Healthy City Portfolio and Councillor Rolph who had become the new Vice Chair of the Management Scrutiny Committee.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors D. Forbes, Howe and J.B. Scott.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**Minutes of the Previous Meetings of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 and 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 be confirmed and signed as correct records.

**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.

The Chairman introduced the item informing Members that the consensus at the Annual Scrutiny Conference had been that the Low Carbon Economy should provide the focus for the Committee's 2010/11 Policy Review. In this regard he invited Janet Snaith, Head of City Business and Investment Team, to brief Members on the current position regarding the development and use of low carbon technologies in Sunderland and the possible focus of any review.

Councillor Cuthbert welcomed the topic of the Low Carbon Economy and recognised its importance but suggested that the Committee should also address the regeneration of the City Centre. The Chairman responded that there would be provision within the Work Programme with regard to the Economic Master Plan where questions about the regeneration of the City Centre could be asked.

With regard to the appointment of a Policy Review Working Group, the Chairman was of the opinion that rather than having a fixed Group, the Committee at its meetings should appoint working groups on an ad hoc basis when issues generated a need.

Councillor A. Wright felt that this approach would work well with small pieces of work but for large pieces like last year's review of the Working Neighbourhood Fund, a dedicated group would be more appropriate. The Chairman advised that he would be happy to have a central group that would report back regularly to the Committee. Councillor P. Gibson confirmed that the Committee would need regular updates and Councillor Cuthbert suggested that perhaps this could become a standing item on the agenda.

The response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Members confirmed that they were happy to agree the Low Carbon Economy as the Committee's Policy Review for 2010/11. Councillor T. Wright added a proviso that the review should not be shackled by time constraints and if it needed to continue into 2011/12 then so be it.

The Chairman advised that he would ask Ms. Snaith and Mr. Diamond to 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 topic of the Low Carbon Economy be approved as the Committee's main theme for a detailed policy review for 2010/2011

### **Request to Attend Seminar – Centre for Public Scrutiny 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held at the Brewery, London on 30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor T. Wright expressed concern that the Committee was only being asked to nominate one representative to the Conference. He paid tribute to the excellent service provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and suggested that all Members, and especially new Members, should have been invited to attend. He suggested that a Conference rota should be devised to enable fair access for all.

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

### **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 which related to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In response to a Member enquiry, Mr. Diamond confirmed that as the new Forward Plan was published in between the agenda being published and the date of the meeting, he would ensure an updated schedule was tabled at each meeting.

Councillor Cuthbert referred to the following items that were outstanding from the previous year's Work Programme:-

- i) the Sunderland Arc draft Business Plan; and
- ii) an update on the Holmeside Triangle.

The Chairman advised that he was yet to receive an update in respect of the Holmeside Triangle. Councillor Cuthbert suggested that an interim report should be submitted in the meantime.

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

(Signed) M. MORDEY,  
Chairman.