

MINUTES

for the Month of

June, 2006

City of Durham

At a Special Meeting of the **AUDIT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Monday, 12th June, 2006, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Shaw (in the Chair)
and Councillors Dickie, Jackson, Kellett, Pitts, Syer and Walker.

Also Present: Councillors Gibbon, Hawgood, Smith and Stoddart.

75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Report of the Director of Strategic Resources.

76. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Director of Strategic Resources circulated a copy of the Statement of Internal Control for inclusion in the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts.

Resolved: That the Statement of Internal Control for inclusion in the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts be approved with some minor amendments.

77. AUDIT COMMISSION –AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

Mike Archibold from the Audit Commission was in attendance to answer Members' questions.

The Committee considered the Audit Commission Report – 2006/2007 Audit and Inspection Plan.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

78. AUDIT COMMISSION – ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2004/2005

The Committee considered the Audit Commission Report – Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2004/2005.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Note: *Councillor Hawgood left the Meeting at 6.30 p.m.*

The Meeting terminated at 6.35 p.m.

Chairman

City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE** held on Tuesday, 20th June 2006 at 1.30 p.m. at various sites.

Present: Councillor Norman (in the Chair)
and Councillors Gibbon, Griffin, Hawgood, Howarth, Stoddart and Young.

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dickie and Syer.

80. TOUR OF DEVELOPMENT SITES

Following the CABA study of residential estate layouts, arrangements had been made for Members of the Development Control Committee to visit various sites throughout the District.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

The Meeting terminated at 4.00 p.m.

Chairman

City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, 21st June, 2006, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Norman (in the Chair)
and Councillors Bell, Dickie, Gibbon, Hawgood, Hopgood, Howarth, Jackson, Simpson, Stoddart, Syer, Taylor and Young.

Also Present: Councillors Hepplewhite, Kellett, Marsden, Moderate and Thomson.

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carr, Griffin, Kinghorn, Lightley, Rochford and Wolstenholme.

82. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 24th May, 2006, and 31st May, 2006, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Report of Head of Planning Services

83. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Reports in relation to the following items had been circulated:-

- (a) Notice of Planning/Enforcement Appeals which had been lodged with the City Council:
 - (i) Appeal by Mr P Stott – Site at Southcroft, Avenue Street, High Shincliffe, Durham.
 - (ii) Appeal by Positive Approach Services Limited – Site at Cross Row, Framwellgate Moor, Durham.
 - (iii) Appeal by Mr Allinson – Site at 12 South Terrace, Framwellgate Moor, Durham.
 - (iv) Appeal by Mr A Wylie – Site at South Gables, High Shincliffe, Durham.
 - (v) Appeal by Mr Short – Site at land to rear of Chelmer House, Church Street, West Rainton.

- (b) Notice of the Outcome of Planning/Enforcement Appeals which had been lodged with the City Council:
 - Appeal by Dianne Liddle – Site at land to the rear of 38 Broomhall Drive, Ushaw Moor, Durham.

- (c) Applications – Determined under Plenary Powers

- (d) Building Control Applications

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

84. RECOMMENDATIONS ON OTHER APPLICATIONS

The Head of Planning Services presented reports on the following applications and the following decisions were made:-

Note: Councillor Kellett declared a personal interest in the undermentioned application and remained in the Meeting during consideration thereof.

- (a) **06/00298/FPA**
Mr J Penny
- Land to Rear of Glens Flats, Pittington, Durham**
Proposed erection of two storey pitched roof dwelling house with single storey garage extension

Resolved: That the application be **REFUSED** for the following reasons:-

- (1) The proposed dwelling, by virtue of its location, scale, character and design would not be in keeping with the scale, character and form of surrounding development. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policies H3, H10 and Q8 of the City of Durham Local Plan 2004.
- (2) The proposed diversion and alterations to the public right of way would detract from its character and amenity value and the character of the area, and increase the risk to personal safety for members of the public. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policies T21, R11, H3 and H13 of the City of Durham Local Plan 2004.

- (b) **06/00328/FPA**
Grainger Homes
- Former Milford Care Home (Rookstone & Whitfield Cottage), North End, Durham, DH1 4LW**
Erection of 24 no. apartments and 7 no. dwellinghouses with associated access, parking and landscaping. (Revised layout, consisting: alterations to highway loss, loss of 1 no. further tree, raise in height of Block 6)

ITEM WITHDRAWN

Resolved: That a Tree Preservation Order be served on those important trees on and adjacent to the site to protect them in the interests of visual amenity and nature conservation.

Note: Councillor Bell declared a personal interest in the undermentioned application and remained in the Meeting during consideration thereof.

- (c) **06/00339/FPA**
Durham Villages
Regeneration
- Land bounded by Philip Avenue, Robert Terrace, Bowburn, Durham**
Erection of 86 dwellings with roadways, gardens and garages (amended scheme)

Resolved: That the application by **APPROVED** subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) T1 - Time Limit [Full Approval] 2004
- (2) DT4 - External Materials
- (3) DT8 - Enclosure (Details to be Agreed)
- (4) DT10 - Hardstanding/Surface Materials
- (5) DT11 - Fenestration Details
- (6) DT12 - Windows in Reveal
- (7) LA2 - Landscaping Scheme (Full/Reserved)

- Matter)
- (8) DT23 - Drainage Scheme
 - (9) - Before the development commences full details for a scheme of traffic calming which shall include a raised plateau on the crossroads created by the estate road junction with Philip Avenue shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and approved in writing. The approved scheme shall then be implemented before the last property of the development is occupied.
 - (10) - Before the development commences details of street lighting including the illumination of the public footpath shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and approved in writing. Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority the street lighting shall be implemented when the development is 75% completed.
 - (11) - Before the development commences full details of the bin storage areas shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and approved in writing. The bin storage areas shall then be provided before the development is occupied and retained as such thereafter.

(d) 06/00427/OUT
City of Durham

Land adjacent 17 The Crescent, West Rainton, Durham
Outline application for Residential Development

Resolved: That the application be **APPROVED** subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) T2 - Time Limit [Outline Approval] 2004
- (2) DT1 - Outline Permission (All Details Reserved)
- (3) DT23 - Drainage Scheme

Note: *Councillor Marsden left the Meeting at 6.22 p.m.*

(e) 06/00430/OUT
City of Durham

Land adjacent 1 Finchale View, West Rainton, Durham
Outline application for Residential Development (Resubmission)

Resolved: That the application be **APPROVED** subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) T2 - Time Limit [Outline Approval] 2004
- (2) DT1 - Outline Permission (All Details Reserved)
- (3) DT23 - Drainage Scheme

(f) **06/00440/FPA**
Mrs A Townsley

Land adjacent to Durham City Amateur Football Club, New Ferens Park, Belmont Industrial Estate, Belmont, Durham

Application for approval of reserved matters in respect of siting, design and external appearance and means of access of children's day nursery with external play areas pursuant to outline approval 4/06/147/OUT/PGH

Resolved That the application by **APPROVED** subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) T1 - Time Limit [Full Approval] 2004
- (2) DT4 - External Materials
- (3) DT8 - Enclosure (Details to be Agreed)
- (4) DT10 - Hardstanding/Surface Materials
- (5) DT12 - Windows in Reveal

Note: *Councillors Hawgood, Hepplewhite and Kellett left the Meeting at 6.46 p.m.*

**85. ENFORCEMENT MATTER –
FORMER PETROL FILLING STATION & BUNGALOW, FRONT STREET, WITTON
GILBERT, DURHAM**

Complaints had been raised concerning the untidy condition of the above site. It was alleged that the site was a hazard to members of the public who used the adjacent highway and footpath. It was also considered that the loose shiplap roofing and the insecurity of the building itself posed a serious harm to the public. Uncertainty also existed about potentially hazardous redundant storage and dispensary facilities in the forecourt area.

The owner of the site lived in New Zealand and had been contacted on a regular basis via email and letters to ascertain plans for securing the site prior to possible future development. The owner proposed to "replace the shiplap (or panelling and painting) to tidy the site up" but refused to arrange demolition work as he felt the structure was still sound.

The Council's Structural Engineer carried out an inspection on 3rd May 2006 and confirmed that there was damage to the lattice girder, but its condition and that of the end cladding and the roof sheeting was no worse than when inspected on 1st December 2005. Despite the derelict appearance of the forecourt canopy it was felt that at the present time the site did not constitute a dangerous structure. Therefore Building Control were unable to justify action under Section 77 and 78 of the Building Act 1984.

Complaints continued to be received concerning the untidy appearance of the site which was prominent on the main road through the village. The complaints were considered to be justified. Its untidy appearance adversely affected the amenity of the area, and the open unsecured nature encouraged trespass and vandalism, that could endanger the local community.

The owner's willingness to tidy and secure the site by renewing the shiplap boarding was welcomed, but no action had been forthcoming and the condition of the site continued to deteriorate.

While the proposed repairs would help to make the area safe, it was considered further works were required to help improve its condition. It was also felt that if the site was securely screened, by a type of hoarding rather than temporary fencing, this would reduce the detrimental effect which the site had to the amenity of the area.

The lack of firm and definite instructions by the owner had left no alternative but to report the matter to the Council for its instructions. Having regard to the time that had elapsed and in order to safeguard the Council's position, authorisation was sought to take appropriate enforcement action in the form of issuing a notice under Section 215 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. Such a notice would require remedial steps to be taken to improve the condition of the site.

Resolved: That authority be given for the service of a notice under Section 215 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 requesting works, as detailed in the report, to be undertaken to the former filling station and bungalow at Front Street, Witton Gilbert. These works should be completed within a period of 3 months from the date of Service of this Notice.

The Meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m.

Chairman

City of Durham

At a Special Meeting of the **AUDIT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE** held in the Large Hall, Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, 28th June, 2006, at 9.30 a.m.

Present: Councillor Shaw (in the Chair)
and Councillors Dickie, Jackson, Kellett, Leake, Pitts, Syer and Walker.

Also Present: Councillors Bell, Gibbon, Howarth, Lodge, Reynolds, Turnbull and Young.

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowper, Griffin, Lightley, Norman, Wolstenholme and Woods.

Report of the Director of Strategic Resources.

87. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2006

The Audit Overview Committee considered a Report setting out the Draft Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2006, for comments prior to the Statement being considered at the extraordinary meeting of Council to be held 29th July, 2006.

A copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts 2005/2006 was circulated and an opportunity was afforded to Members to ask further questions and comment on the Accounts.

Resolved: That the draft Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2006, be recommended to the Council for approval.

Note: *Councillor Lodge left the Meeting at 10.35 a.m.*

88. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Director of Strategic Resources submitted a comprehensive report in relation to the Statement of Internal Control included in the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts.

Resolved: That the Statement of Internal Control included in the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts be recommended to the Council for approval.

The Meeting terminated at 10.52 a.m.

Chairman

City of Durham

At a Special Meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, 28th June, 2006, at 1.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Reynolds (in the Chair)
and Councillors Bell, Holland and Jackson.

Also Present: Councillors Gibbon, Graham, Hawgood, Howarth, Kellett, Kinghorn, Marsden, Pitts, Simmons, Stoddart, Syer, Thomson, Turnbull and Young.

89. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowper, Griffin, Lightley, Rochford, Wolstenholme and Woods.

90. PRESENTATION ON THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. Pownall from Durham County Council gave Members a Presentation on the Traffic Management Act.

County Councillor Douthwaite, Chairman of the Highway Committee was also in attendance.

After a question and answer session, the Chairman thanked Mr. Pownall for a very informative Presentation.

Note: All Members of the Council had been invited to attend the Presentation.

The Meeting terminated at 1.40 p.m.

Chairman

City of Durham

At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, 28th June, 2006, at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Reynolds (in the Chair)
and Councillors Bell, Holland, Jackson, Rae and Van Zwanenberg.

Also Present: Councillors Colledge, Gibbon, Graham, Howarth, Kinghorn, Marsden, Pitts, Simmons, Stoddart, Syer, Thomson, Turnbuall and Young.

91. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Southwell and Woods.

92. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th May, 2006, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Report of Chief Executive

93. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The Chief Executive submitted the following Reports for Information, copies of which had been placed in the Members' Room:

- a) The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 as Amended – Publication of the Forward Plan
- b) Local Government Ombudsman Case Nos. 05/C/15975, 04/C/18713 and 05/C/14871

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

Report of the Director of Legal and Administration Services

94. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

(a) The Local Government Association – Urban Commission

The term of office of Councillor Southwell as the City Council's Representative on the Local Government Association – Urban Commission, was due to expire on Friday, 23rd June, 2006.

Resolved: That Councillor Southwell be re-appointed as the City Council's Representative on the Local Government Association – Urban Commission 2006/2007, the term of office to expire in June, 2007.

(b) The Local Government Association – Rural Commission

The term of office of Councillor Jackson as the City Council's Representative on the Local Government Association – Urban Commission, was due to expire on Friday, 28th July, 2006.

Resolved: That Councillor Jackson be re-appointed as the City Council's Representative on the Local Government Association – Rural Commission 2006/2007, the term of office to expire in July, 2007.

(c) The Local Government Association – General Assembly

The term of office of Councillor Reynolds as the City Council's Representative on the Local Government Association – General Assembly, was due to expire on Tuesday, 4th July, 2006.

Resolved: That Councillor Reynolds be re-appointed as the City Council's Representative on the Local Government Association – General Assembly 2006/2007, the term of office to expire in July, 2007.

(d) North East Regional Employers' Organisation

The term of office of Councillors Reynolds and Wynn as the City Council's Representative on the North East Regional Employers' Organisation, was due to expire on Friday, 30th June, 2006.

Resolved: That the Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Human Resources be appointed as the City Council's Representatives on the North East Regional Employers' Organisation, the term of office to expire 30th June, 2007.

(e) Durham County Council Valuation & Community Charge Tribunal

The term of office of Councillor Walker as the City Council's Representative on Durham County Council Valuation & Community Charge Tribunal, expired on Wednesday, 31st May, 2006.

Resolved: That Councillor Walker be re-appointed as the City Council's Representative on Durham County Council Valuation & Community Charge Tribunal, the term of office to expire on 31st May, 2009.

(f) Sherburn Hospital Representative Governors

The term of office of Mr. S. Laverick as the City Council's Representative on Sherburn Hospital Representative Governors was due to expire on 28th August, 2006.

Resolved: That Councillor Lightley be appointed as the City Council's representative on Sherburn Hospital Representative Governors.

**95. CITY OF DURHAM MAYOR'S APPEAL LIMITED
MINUTE 371, 5th DECEMBER, 2005**

Cabinet in December last year considered a report on the operation of the Council's charities and the Mayor's Appeal and agreed to set up a company limited by guarantee to be known as "The City of Durham Mayor's Appeal" and to register the appeal as a charitable trust.

It was agreed that the members of the trust would be the current Mayor the immediately past Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Chief Executive, the Executive Director, the Director of Strategic Resources, the Director of Legal and Administration Services and two members nominated by the City Council and that a further report would be brought forward on the proposed objects of the trust.

Circulated was a draft of a Memorandum and Articles of Association for the proposed charitable trust. The initial subscribers to the company would be the Trustees/Board of Directors. Their guarantee was limited to a nominal one of £1 each. However, it should be noted that if Directors act negligently their liability could be greater than the nominal subscription.

The proposed financial year was May to April to tie in with the Mayor's year of office. The Chairman would be the Mayor for that particular year.

The proposed objects are :-

1. To provide for the collection and administration of funds and donations for the Mayor's appeal each year.
2. To deal with the balance of funds left over from previous appeals where appropriate.
3. To raise funds and invite and receive contributions
4. To undertake any charitable trust in which the objects of the charity are attained.
5. Standard provisions regarding acquisition of property, disposal of assets, raising of monies and investment powers etc.

Resolved: That the Memorandum and Articles of Association be approved and that the Director of Legal and Administration Services be authorised to form the company to be known as The City of Durham Mayor's Appeal and apply for charitable registration.

96. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL SCRUTINY OF FLY-TIPPING WITHIN THE CITY OF DURHAM AREA

The Environment Scrutiny Panel were asked to consider the review the Council's approach to tackling the problem of fly-tipping.

Their subsequent report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 30th May, 2006, when it was recommended that the report be referred to Cabinet. A copy of the report had been circulated.

Resolved: (i) That recommendation 3 of the report be amended to add "that the Panel report back to Cabinet as soon as possible".

(ii) That subject to (i) above, the report and recommendations be approved and adopted.

97. PROVISION OF TAXI RANK – NORTH ROAD, MINUTE 566, 5th APRIL 2006

The Director of Legal and Administration Services reported to Cabinet on 5th April, 2006, in relation to the proposal for the creation of a further taxi rank outside 18 North Road. The requisite notices under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 were given and a period of 28 days allowed for objections and representations.

No representations or objections to the making of the Order were received.

Resolved: That the City Council formally appoint an additional stand for Hackney Carriages on the south side of North Road, Durham City from a point six metres south east of the junction with Neville Street and extending in a generally south easterly direction for a distance of 38 metres. The hours of operation of the Rank will be from 6.00 p.m. until 8.00 a.m.

98. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The Director of Legal and Administration Services submitted the following Reports for Information, copies of which had been placed in the Members' Room:

- a) Land Transactions – Valuation Reports

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

Report of the Head of Human Resources

99. MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE CLINIC

The Terms of Reference for Performance Clinics were originally agreed at Cabinet on 11th November 2002. To reflect progress made in areas of performance management, revisions were made to the Terms of Reference and were agreed at Cabinet on 6th December 2004.

The purpose of Performance Clinics were to monitor the progress of service improvements, and ensure they were aligned with the Council's vision and priorities, to monitor and critically examine current performance of best value and local performance indicators and to provide necessary focus, support and advice to ensure performance improves in all areas of service delivery.

Best Value and Local Performance Indicators were reported and discussed and were linked to the Authority's three corporate key aims – Flourishing Communities, Quality Public Services and Capital City. In addition, a set of indicators which had a corporate impact were also reported.

A Performance Clinic was held in May 2006, covering all portfolio areas. A copy of the Minutes had been circulated.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Performance Clinic held in May 2006 be noted.

Report of the Head of Community Services

100. SWIMMING POOL CONSULTATION REPORT

The Head of Community Services submitted a comprehensive report to give an overview of the consultation process adopted in relation to the proposals for a new City Centre Swimming Pool. A full hard copy of the report had been placed in the Members Room. (See Report File).

Resolved: (i) That the information held within the full consultation report, together with individual comments, be fed into the project steering group and used to inform the architects in the design process.

(ii) That a feedback exercise be investigated, whether following the route of City News articles, exhibitions in the original associated venues (existing swimming baths and the Gala theatre) or individual letters of thanks to respondents who took the time to be a part of this exercise.

(iii) That the content of the report be noted.

Report of the Head of Cultural Services

101. DESTINATION DURHAM – CONFERENCE SERVICE

Destination Durham was the conference venue-finding service of the Tourism Section. It was created in 2003 in response to the growing demand for assistance from conference organisers in finding suitable venues in Durham.

The service received the backing of the County Durham Economic Partnership and was subsequently the only successful applicant for ERDF tourism funding in the county. The project was funded for two years with the intention of its being ultimately absorbed into the emerging sub-regional tourism body, now called the Area Tourism Partnership. This would enable it to offer a countywide service for Durham, and act as a complement to the conference desks at the Newcastle/Gateshead Initiative and Tees Valley.

The Destination Durham project was extended, with the agreement of Government Office North East, from the end of December 2005 to the end of March 2006, in order to fit in with the proposed timetable of the establishment of the County Durham Area Tourism Partnership (ATP).

Currently funding difficulties experienced by our major partner in Tourism, Durham County Council, had delayed the ATP from operating fully on 1st April. The Board of the ATP was in place and the Chair had been appointed. The application for funding the ATP in full using Single Programme funding via the County Durham Economic Partnership had been passed to One NorthEast. It was anticipated that the ONE PEP would approve the ATP on 28th March. The recently appointed Chief Executive would, it was hoped, be in post from mid June.

In order to ensure the continuity of the service to venues and conference organisers, the Chair of the ATP Board had proposed that Durham City Council continued to employ Destination Durham staff for a further 12 months. To do this he had agreed that all salaries and associated expenses associated with running the DD service would be covered by the ATP. He then proposed that the Destination Durham staff would subsequently join the Chief Executive at the ATP's Rivergreen offices at Aykley Heads.

The Head of Corporate Services envisaged that, once the CEO was in post, they would wish the DD staff to be fully embedded in the ATP at Rivergreen. At that time the staff would be transferred to Rivergreen, releasing the Council from its contract with the staff. This would mean the Council would continue to host the service on behalf of the ATP for another 3 months at least.

Further work was underway to engage the ATP in funding further branches of the Tourism Section. This work would be reported at a later date as part of a full Service Review.

Resolved: That the offer be accepted, to allow Destination Durham to maintain its successful promotion of business tourism in the City.

Report of the Head of Planning Services

102. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT: PROVISION OF PUBLIC ART AS PART OF MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

The Head of Planning Services submitted a comprehensive report to inform Members of the results of the consultation exercise of the Supplementary Planning Document: Provision of Public Art as Part of Major New Development Schemes and to approve it for formal adoption. (See Report File)

Resolved: (i) That the SPD, as amended following consultation, for adoption as required by Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 be approved.

(ii) That consideration be given to the provision of public art in the context of other regeneration benefits, an emerging, wider range of developer contributions and the relative weight afforded to these.

103. CHARTER MARK

The Building Control Team had been successful in retaining Charter Mark Status for the Service.

The Assessment was undertaken by Charter Mark Assessment Services who considered that Building Control had continued to deliver excellent service to the community under difficult circumstances over the past 12 months. Particular credit was given to the Council's innovative solution in using the Council's private sector partner JBC. This had enabled the Service to maintain a high level of service delivery in a competitive business environment and staff recruitment/retention difficulties in Local Authority Building Control.

Only 9 areas were identified for improvement over the next three years, details of which had been set out.

The assessor's comments would be included in the Service Improvement Plan which was currently being developed.

Resolved: That the Report be noted and the outcome be welcomed as a measure of the Council's effectiveness in responding to market pressures on the service and maintaining standards of performance.

Report of the Head of Environment and Leisure Services

104. IMPROVING STANDARDS OF CLEANLINESS THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The principle of neighbourhood service delivery, developed by the Environmental Services section, had produced an integrated environmental services delivery model. This method of operation, focused upon 6 sub district geographical areas, or Neighbourhoods, had resulted in a more efficient service and higher standards of cleanliness throughout the district. The Head of Environment and Leisure Services submitted a comprehensive report in this regard. (See Report File).

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Report of the Head of Housing Services

105. VALUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: REMODELLING COMMUNITY ALARM AND SHELTERED HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

The Head of Housing Services submitted a comprehensive report to advise members of the latest developments in relation to the Value Improvement Project (VIP) and to consider the way forward for the Council's City Care Service in the light of these developments. (See Report File).

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted and that the commitment of the Authority to maintain this quality service be confirmed.

(ii) That delegated powers be given to the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Housing to approve and agree any action to be taken in relation to this tendering process in consultation with the Leaders of the Labour and Independent Parties.

(iii) That a further report be brought to Cabinet to inform members of any subsequent action agreed and taken as part of the process.

106. IN PRIVATE

Resolved: That pursuant to Section 100.A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting during consideration of the items listed in Column 1 below, being reports of the Officers mentioned in Column 2 below on the grounds that if members of the public were present during discussion of these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information (as defined in Section 100.I) of the description indicated in Column 3 below.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Right to Buy and Non-Right to Buy Property Valuation Services	Director of Legal and Administration Services	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Para. 3)
Ill Health Retirement	Head of Human Resources	Information relating to any individual (Para. 1)

Report of the Director of Legal and Administration Services

107. RIGHT TO BUY AND NON-RIGHT TO BUY PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES

The Director of Legal and Administration Services submitted a comprehensive report to consider extending contracts with J W Wood Chartered Surveyor for provision of Right to Buy and non-Right to Buy property valuation services to the City Council. (See Report File).

Resolved: That the extension of contracts with J W Wood Chartered Surveyors of Durham for the provision of Right to Buy and non-Right to Buy property valuation services for a period of 1 year commencing 1st May 2006, at the same level of fees as originally applying with effect from 1st May 2003, be agreed.

Report of the Head of Human Resources

108. ILL HEALTH RETIREMENT MR. R.F. CROOKS, LEISURE ASSISTANT ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE SERVICES

Mr. Crooks had been absent from work since 16th May, 2005.

An independent Occupational Health Doctor had certified that Mr. Crooks was permanently unfit to continue in his employment as a Leisure Assistant or a broadly similar one under the terms of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Due to the nature of Mr. Crooks' illness no reasonable adjustments could be made to his present job.

Departments were, therefore, contacted regarding possible redeployment opportunities for Mr. Crooks and following their response, no suitable alternative employment was available.

Mr. Crooks' absence had been managed in accordance with the Authority's Sickness Absence Procedure. He had been consulted throughout his absence, medical opinion had been sought and full consideration had been given to redeployment/retraining.

Resolved: That Mr. Crooks be retired on the grounds of ill health.

The Meeting terminated at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman

City of Durham

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Thursday, 29th June, 2006, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor Lodge (in the Chair) and Councillors Bell, Carr, Colledge, Cummings, Dickie, Freeman, Graham, Hawgood, Holland, Hoppood, Howarth, Jackson, Kinghorn, Leake, McDonnell, Moderate, Pitts, Rae, Reynolds, Shaw, Simmons, Simpson, Southwell, Stoddart, Syer, Thomson, Turnbull, van Zwanenberg, Walker, Walton, Woods, Wynn and Young.

109. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowper, Crathorne, Gibbon, Gill, Griffin, Hepplewhite, Lightley, Marsden, Norman, Robinson, Rochford, Smith, Taylor and Wolstenholme.

The Leader and Members congratulated the Mayor on his M.B.E. Members and Officers warmly applauded.

Report of the Director of Legal and Administration Services

110. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

As a consequence of the Director of Legal and Administration Services report to Cabinet on 17 May 2006 that neither the Mayor nor the Deputy Mayor could be Cabinet members, the following changes to Committee appointments were proposed:-

Cabinet

Councillor Thomson to replace Councillor Wynn
Councillor Dickie to replace Councillor Lodge

Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Moderate to replace Councillor Dickie

Policy Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Leake to replace Councillor Moderate
Councillor Wynn to replace Councillor Thomson

Environment Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Leake to replace Councillor Dickie

Licensing Panel

Councillor Lodge to replace Councillor Dickie
Councillor Wynn to replace Councillor Thomson

The Director of Legal and Administration Services reported at the Meeting that there was no change to Appeals Panel as Councillor Lodge was currently a Member of the Panel.

Resolved: That the replacement appointments be approved.

111. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The under mentioned changes were proposed:-

County Durham Association of Local Authorities (formerly known as County Joint Committee) –
Leader and Deputy Leader – post holders rather than named Councillors

Local Authority Forum of the Arts Council –
Councillor Holland as Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Culture, to replace Councillor Wynn

County Durham Association of Local Authorities –
Councillor Holland, as Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Culture, to replace Councillor Wynn

Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee –
Councillor Thomson to replace Councillor Wynn

Resolved: That the replacement appointments be approved.

112. PORTFOLIO HOLDER APPOINTMENTS

The Leader had responsibility for deciding the allocation of executive responsibilities set out in the City Council's Constitution. With immediate effect the Leader had made the following changes to Portfolio Holder responsibilities:-

Housing - Councillor Thomson
Finance - Councillor Southwell

All other Portfolios remain unchanged.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Report of Director of Strategic Resources

113. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2006

The Director of Strategic Resources submitted a comprehensive report that showed the main financial results for the year ended 31st March, 2006. The report summarised the income and expenditure incurred by the Council, and highlighted any changes in the financial position of the Council that occurred during the year.

The report had been considered at a Special Meeting of the Audit Overview Committee prior to submission to Council to enable Members to ask questions and go through the details of the accounts.

Members thanked the Audit Overview Committee and Officers' for an excellent job of producing the accounts so quickly.

Resolved: That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st Mach, 2006 be approved.

114. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Director of Strategic Resources submitted a comprehensive report in relation to the Statement of Internal Control included in the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts.

Resolved: That the Statement of Internal Control included in the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts be approved.

The Meeting terminated at 5.45 p.m.

Mayor