

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Present:

Councillors:

P A Diviani (Chairman)
Mrs P A Stott (Vice Chairman)

Miss V Ash	S Hughes
D G Atkins	D R H Hull
R Bloxham	J Humphreys
Mrs M J Boote	B O Ingham
R W Boote	H J Jeffery
P N Bowden	Mrs S Jones
G P Brown	D R A Key
G P Chamberlain	J A Knight
D Chapman	Mrs A E Liverton
I R Chubb	G K Liverton
T A Cope	S C Luxton
D J Cox	A T Moulding
A E J Dinnis	Mrs F I Newth
Mrs C E Drew	K D Nicholas
Ms V Duval Steer	J B Nicholson
Miss J M Elson	Mrs H E Parr
M Florey	R C Peachey
R G Franklin	K C Potter
K W George	Miss S M Randall Johnson
C F A Gibbings	A W J Reed
A R Giles	Mrs M A Rogers
G Godbeer	P J Skinner
Mrs P A Graham	C T Tratt
M J L Green	G M Troman
S Hall	J M Williamson
J P Halse	T Wood
Mrs M L Hardy	S C Wragg

Apologies

Councillors:

D G Button
Mrs B O Taylor
Mrs E E Wragg

The meeting started at 6.55 pm and finished at 7.55 pm.

*20 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 23 May 2007 were confirmed and signed as a true record subject to changes to the membership of the Scrutiny Committee which was dealt with as a separate agenda item (see Minute 24 below).

*21 Notices

The Leader advised Members that the new Councillor Year Book had been distributed.

Members were also up-dated on the current progress to remove the MSC Napoli from off the coast at Branscombe. The purpose of the detonated charges and use of tugs over the last two days was to split the Napoli so that it could be removed.

***21 Notices (continued)**

The Leader advised that she had attended a meeting of the Regional Assembly the preceding Friday where it had been announced that Regional Assemblies were to be abolished in 2009/10. This was welcomed although the Leader expressed concern that strategic responsibility for regional transport and planning would be transferred to the Regional Development Agency.

***22 Long Service Awards**

The Chairman presented long service awards to East Devon District Council staff with 10, 20, 25 years service to the Council. He said that the Council wanted to show its appreciation of long and dedicated service.

23 Housing Inspection

The Head of Housing and Social Inclusion gave a short presentation on the importance of the Audit Commission's Housing Inspection which was scheduled to commence at the end of August. He had circulated briefing notes to Councillors on the key elements of the Inspection, which was related to the Council's housing management services.

The Inspection was based on the published, relevant housing Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) setting out standards that the Council was expected to achieve in respect of a range of specific and cross-cutting service areas, including access to services. The Service would complete a self-assessment, which was an honest and accurate appraisal of its strengths and weaknesses in the areas being inspected and would be backed up with supporting evidence. The on-site 10 day inspection would include interviews with Members, officers and service users. The Inspectors would consider how good the Service was, its prospects for improvement and its vision, delivery and capacity to improve. It was essential to prove that the service was meeting the needs of the community and achieving value for money. The Service would need to demonstrate that it was customer driven – that it put the customer first and had regard for what was best for the service users.

The Inspection was an exacting test of the Housing Service. The aim of the Service was to try to attain an excellent standard which would reflect well on the Council.

***23 Questions**

The Portfolio Holder – Street Scene, pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 8.2, stated that the precise details of the Recycling and Waste trial had yet to be confirmed but that these would be determined with the Contractor, Sita, when the Council had decided on the proposed method of collection.

***24 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

RESOLVED (1) that the under-mentioned minutes be received and the recommendations approved

Executive Board	Minutes	202, 1-47
Development Control	Minutes	59-68, 1-4
Planning Inspections	Minutes	31-35, 1-6
Licensing & Enforcement	Minutes	1-4
Licensing and Enforcement Sub A & B	Minutes	18-27, 1-3, 1-5
Audit and Corporate Governance	Minutes	1-12
Standards Committee	Minutes	17-19

***24 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees (cont)..**

- (2) that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

The Executive Board (minutes 36 and 191) had noted or accepted the Scrutiny and the Housing Review Board recommendations with or without amendment. The minutes of the Corporate Overview Committee of 28 June 2007 had been referred direct to the Council due to timetabling constraints.

Scrutiny	Minutes	1-9
Corporate Overview	Minutes	36-42, 1-8
Housing Review Board	Minutes	1-16

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

- a) Housing Review Board Minutes (Executive Board Minute 36)

Referring to Housing Review Board Minute 15 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account 2006/07 – Outturn Statement, The Portfolio Holder – Communities questioned the required amount payable to Government. She said that if the Government allowed the Council to keep this amount, it would be in a position to buy its own stock of affordable homes for the people of East Devon.

- b) Housing Review Board Minutes (Executive Board Minute 36)

The Chairman of the Housing Review Board confirmed that the tenant profiling questionnaire had been approved at the meeting following detailed discussion. The majority of Members at the meeting had agreed that the questions were justified. The questionnaire gave tenants the option not to answer questions.

- c) Member Development and Training Strategy

RESOLVED that a cross-party Member Development Group be set up comprising 6 Members (4 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent Group):
A T Moulding, Mrs C E Drew, G Godbeer J Humphreys
Mrs P Graham
Miss V Ash

- d) Future waste initiatives for East Devon – costings

Following questions, the Portfolio Holder – Street Scene confirmed that, during the trial, food waste would be collected separately on a weekly basis. There would be a comprehensive publicity strategy. It was essential to the success of the trial for the public to be engaged. Different types and sizes of bins/sacks would be available to meet individual and local requirements.

RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Executive Board minute 46:

- Recommendation 1, point 3 'Fortnightly collection of residual waste'
- It be included that Councillor Cope did not support the size of the trial area or the fortnightly collection of residuals.

***24 Committee Membership – Scrutiny Committee**

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Membership of the Scrutiny Committee be amended with Councillor D Hull being appointed to replace Councillor G P Chamberlain and Councillor J A Knight being appointed to replace Councillor G Godbeer,
- (2) that the Membership of the Overview Committee be amended with Councillor G Godbeer being appointed to replace Councillor J A Knight,
- (2) that Councillor J A Knight be appointed Vice Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing year.

Chairman

Date