

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth on Thursday, 22 March 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Bawn
(Chairman, in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Beynon, J.
Grimshaw, L.

Robinson, M.
Swinburn, M.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

A. Stewart
S. Nicholson

Finance Manager
Scrutiny Co-ordinator

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Castle, D. Ledger, K. Parry, G. Roughead and T. Wilson.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC held on 25 January 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

51. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY CABINET DECISIONS

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the latest Forward Plan of key decisions (March - June 2018). (Forward Plan enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

52. CABINET REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised members of Cabinet decisions regarding issues previously commented on and been subject of report by this Committee. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix B).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

53. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the Committee's Monitoring Report for 2017-18. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix C).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

54. INFORMATION REPORT - POLICY DIGEST

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised the Committee that the Policy Digest gave details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members. The report could be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

55. URGENT BUSINESS

Enterprise Zone - Bates Terminal Blyth - Infrastructure Works

The Chairman reported that he had been notified of an additional report to be considered by the Cabinet on 10 April 2018 on which this Committee were invited to make comment. He agreed to allow to consideration of the report under Part II on the agenda.

56. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee are invited to consider passing the following resolution:

- (a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and

- (b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

Agenda Item	Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A
8 and 10	<p>3 - This report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p> <p>The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the interest in disclosure because disclosure would adversely affect the Authority and its partners ability to conduct their affairs.</p>

57. SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORTS

The Committee were advised that the following reports would be considered by the Cabinet on 10 April 2018. The Committee were asked to comment on the proposals contained in the reports. Those comments would be presented to the Cabinet by the Chairman.

57.1 Active Northumberland Financial Position 2017-18

The Chairman reported that both the Cabinet Member: Corporate Services and Cabinet Secretary and the Service Director: Finance were unexpectedly required to attend other meetings and were therefore unavailable to present and respond to questions on the report. He proposed to defer the report to a later date.

However some members reported that they had prepared questions for the Cabinet Member and stated that if they were able to forward those questions to him and receive responses by 18 April 2018, they were content to forego the need for the Committee to schedule an additional meeting to consider the report.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordinator be requested to forward members' questions to the Cabinet Member and ensure that they all receive a copy of the responses.

57.2 Enterprise Zone - Bates Terminal Blyth - Infrastructure Works

The purpose of this report was to enable the Cabinet to make a formal recommendation to the County Council in respect of the Council contribution towards the Port of Blyth, Bates Terminal, Enterprise Zone Infrastructure works.

The Committee were content to support the proposals in the report, with the addition to recommendation 1 to state that the payment be made to NELEP as a loan.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that, subject to the amendment to recommendation 1 as outlined above, the proposals be supported.

Chairman _____

Date _____