

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 2:00PM**

Present: Councillors J Kane (Chairman); C Whiteside; D Banks;  
D Moore; J Prince; W Southward; Mrs C Watson and H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs A Faichney:  
A Jacob and A Mossop.

Officers: A Johnson, Interim Scrutiny Consultant; J Betteridge, Head of  
Development Strategy (item 6 only); T Pomfret, Development Control  
Manager (items 7 & 8 only); D Wright, Planning Enforcement Officer  
(items 7 & 8 only) and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support  
Officer.

**EDE 28/09 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 December 2009**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on  
17 December 2009 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**EDE 29/09 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor W Southward declared a personal and prejudicial interest in  
agenda items 7 and 8, due to being the Chair of Planning Panel and left  
the room during the discussion of those items.

Councillor C Whiteside declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 due  
to being employed by British Telecom.

**EDE 30/09 Arrangement of Agenda Items**

Due to the Officer being present it was,  
AGREED to take item 9 immediately after item 6.

**EDE 31/09 Regional Strategy 2010 – High Level Strategic Plan**

The Head of Development Strategy provided the Committee with an  
overview of the Regional Strategy for England's North West 2010,  
contained in the High Level Strategic Framework consultation document.

Members attention was drawn to the four strategy strands,

- Capitalise on the opportunities of moving to a low carbon economy  
and address climate change,

- Build on the sources of international competitive advantage and regional distinctiveness,
- Release the potential of people and tackle poverty,
- Ensure the right housing and infrastructure for sustainable growth.

During the discussion that followed, Members considered the four Strategic Options listed in the document;

- Option 1 – Current position ('Business as usual').
- Option 2 – Focus on economic opportunity.
- Option 3 – Focus on protecting environmental resources and taking full advantage of environmental opportunities.
- Option 4 – Focus on regeneration and development to tackle social deprivation and inclusion.

Members were concerned that there was very little mention of the nuclear industry / energy coast, connectivity issues in West Cumbria (both transport and Grid Connectivity) and does not adequately acknowledge any of the issues facing Copeland.

The Committee felt it could not give specific support to any of the strategic options listed and encouraged Members and the public to respond to this consultation using the website address shown in the report.

A request was also made to invite Mr Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive of Northwest Regional Development Agency, to attend a future meeting of this Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That

- a) the overview be received and the Head of Development Strategy be supported in putting Copeland's case forward, and
- b) Mr Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive of Northwest Regional Development Agency be invited to attend a future meeting of this Committee.

**EDE 32/09**     **Work Plan**

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Plan for 2009/10.

**RESOLVED** – That the Work Plan be amended/updated as agreed.

**EDE 33/09**     **Revised Planning Enforcement Manual and Review of Enforcement of Conditions on Planning Decisions**

The Development Control Manager introduced the recently appointed Planning Enforcement Officer to the Committee and presented an overview on Planning Enforcement.

Committee were advised that all the requirements of the Task and Finish Group's report to the Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 21 August 2008 had now been met except for the establishment of an Enforcement Forum. They were also advised that documents would be added to the Council's website.

Members stated that they welcomed the appointment of a Planning Enforcement Officer and the introduction of the revised Planning Enforcement Manual. And they had already noticed a big improvement in planning enforcement. They were pleased that the message was now getting out following the scrutiny action which had highlighted the need for improvement, and congratulated the officers on the progress that had been made.

The Planning Enforcement Officer provided the Committee with examples of the types of Enforcement activity together with data and statistics on action taken since August 2009 in relation to breaches of condition.

**RESOLVED – That**

- a) the overview on the Revised Planning Enforcement Manual and the Review of Enforcement of Conditions on Planning Decisions be noted, and
- b) Members support the post of Planning Enforcement Officer becoming permanent.

Before closing the meeting, the Chair recognized that the Committee's Task and Finish Group had carried out a very good piece of scrutiny in this area in 2008, the benefits of which were now being realised in the community, and he commended the committee on an excellent piece of work.

The Meeting closed at 3:00 pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....