

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Present: Councillors J Kane (Chairman); D Banks; D Moore; R Pitt; J Prince; R Salkeld; Mrs C Watson; A Wonnacott and C Whiteside (For Items 6, 7 & 8)

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer and T Pomfret, Development Services Manager (For Items 6 & 7 only).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Dixon and H Wormstrup.

Also present: Councillor A Norwood.

**EDE 10/08 Minutes of the Meetings Held on 22 July 2008**

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 July 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**EDE 11/08 British Telecom Payphone Closures**

The Committee were provided with the up-to date position on the planned BT Payphone closure programme and a copy of BT's letter regarding 'Adopting' and 'Sponsoring' a public phone box.

Member then considered each of the 25 public payphones identified for closure in the Copeland area, using the research material (including photographs) gathered by officers, BT's call data and responses from Parish/Town Councils, Public and Cumbria Constabulary.

During discussion of this item Members again raised concerns regarding the removal of a vital link from some of the most remote sites in the Borough where mobile phone coverage is either poor or non existent. Some of the sites also being close to known accident 'black spots'.

It was also noted that some of the boxes identified for closure had not been maintained by British Telecom and were not serviceable when inspected.

Members were keen to support the Parish and Town Councils and maintain these vital links in the Borough.

The Committee thanked the Officers for their thorough research on this subject.

**AGREED** – that

- a) The Committee respond to British Telecom objecting to the closure of 24 of the 25 public payphones identified for closure in the Borough. The one public payphones not to be objected to is that at Lamplugh (phone number 01946 861212).
- b) The draft schedule be updated with the comments made by the Committee and this form the basis of the Council's response to British Telecom and the Secretary of State.
- c) British Telecom's letter regarding 'Adopting' or 'Sponsoring' a phone box be copied to Town and Parish Councils for their information.

#### **EDE 12/08     Planning Appeals**

The Committee considered the four recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

During discussion of this item, the Development Services Manager provided Members with Development Control Performance Monitoring figures for 2007/2008 and the first quarter of 2008/2009.

Members were also advised that training for Planning Panel Members was ongoing and that the training was also open to all Members. Additionally, two Planning Panel Members attend Planning Summer School each year.

**AGREED** – that the Committee support the four recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and that this now be progressed via the Planning Panel and Full Council.

#### **EDE 13/08     Planning and Building Control Enforcement**

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on Planning and Building Control Enforcement.

During discussion of this item, Members suggested a change to the wording of recommendation (C)(1).

It was also suggested that a book of 'Standard model reasons for refusal' be compiled.

Members were advised that a report to Personnel Panel was recommending the recruitment of a Planning Enforcement Officer.

**AGREED** – that the Committee accept the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group with amendments and that this now be progressed via the Planning Panel and Full Council.

**EDE 14/08**    **Work Plan**

The Committee considered its current work plan.

**RESOLVED** – that the work plan be noted.

The Meeting Closed at 3:40pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....