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MEETING	SHADOW EXECUTIVE
DATE	14 JANUARY 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS POTTER (VICE-CHAIR, IN THE CHAIR), GUNNELL, KING, LOOKER, MERRETT, SCOTT (FOR EXECUTIVE ITEM 8 ONLY) AND SIMPSON-LAING

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## **120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Potter declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Executive Item 9 (Review of Public Bus Services in York) as a member of the management committee of York Wheels.

## **121. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting as there was no exempt information relating to briefings on Executive business, as detailed on the agenda for the Executive meeting to be held on 20 January 2009, under Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.

## **122. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Shadow Executive held on 26 November 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **123. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

## **124. BRIEFINGS ON EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

The Shadow Executive received briefings on the following items of business on the agenda for the Executive meeting on 20 January 2009:

- Affordable Housing Initiatives (agenda item 8)
- Review of Public Bus Services in York (agenda item 9)

In relation to the former item, Members requested legal advice on the possible use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire land for affordable housing development.<sup>1</sup>

With regards to the latter item, officers agreed to provide an email response to Members on how much fare paying bus patronage had dropped.<sup>2</sup>

Action Required

- |                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1 - To provide the legal advice;   | SS |
| 2 - To provide the email response. | SS |

**125. BRIEFING REPORT ON COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS FOR SECOND HOMES AND EMPTY PROPERTIES**

Members received a briefing report which responded to their query as to whether or not there were any options open to the Council under present legislation for abolishing or altering the Council Tax reduction currently available for second homes and empty properties.

The briefing report explained that a minimum discount of 10% was set by legislation with regards to second homes, which was currently applied by the Council, and that no minimum discount was prescribed by legislation in relation to empty properties, with the Council currently levying the full rate of Council Tax in these cases.

Members thanked officers for preparing the briefing report and attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the briefing report be noted.

REASON: To inform and update the Shadow Executive.

**126. CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

The Shadow Executive recorded their thanks to Simon Copley, Democracy Officer, who was leaving City of York Council, for his work over the past seven years and their good wishes for the future.

CLLR R POTTER, Vice-Chair, in the Chair  
[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.15 pm].