

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Select Committee No 1 – Townships**

**26 November 2007**

**Present at the Meeting:**

Councillor Mrs S J Birch (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs B Bourne  
Councillor Mrs S Loudon  
Councillor Mr H Cadman  
Councillor Mr M Klieve

- .1 Apologies for absence:** Councillor Mr P Tushingam and Councillor Mr R Splaine
- .2 Minutes of last meeting:** Checked and agreed as correct
- .3 Recent visits to Newcastle & Easington:** Mr J Winterbottom thanked all of those who were able to go along to the North East for their recent visit. He also did a re-cap for all present who could not attend and the committee had a general discussion. The visit to Newcastle provided an interesting insight into how Participatory Budgeting had worked for them although members were concerned with the value for money of this approach – but recognised that there are lessons to be learned. Easington provided information on how they had gone about changing the way they worked with residents by giving them chance to decide for themselves how they wanted to get involved and had developed a “menu” of community engagement mechanisms. The committee discussed this and felt it was a good approach. Rec: The committee will: await the VFM assessment of Participatory Budgeting (PB) from Newcastle and the PB unit and look at what we have asked residents about engagement/involvement and consider how we ask residents about how and to what extent they want to be involved.
- .4 Plan for future meetings:** The select committee want to apply this learning to current activity in Wigan. It was agreed that we would meet next at 4pm in the Charter Suite at Wigan Town Hall and that we would invite Township Managers and Township Coordinators along to this. We would also communicate by e-mail before this meeting to agree what we wanted to get from the Township staff – so that they had time to prepare and could bring along any relevant information.

Chairman