

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, 16 June 2017

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR P DILLON (CHAIR)

Councillors: J Green, J Adams, R Beadle, D Bradford, M Brain, M Charlton, B Clelland, P Craig, D Davidson, W Dick, S Dickie, K Dodds, C Donovan, A Douglas, D Duggan, John Eagle, K Ferdinand, M Foy, P Foy, M Gannon, A Geddes, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, T Graham, L Green, S Green, G Haley, S Hawkins, H Haran, J Kielty, L Kirton, J Lee, P Maughan, K McCartney, J McClurey, J McElroy, C McHatton, C McHugh, P McNally, M McNestry, P Mole, R Mullen, B Oliphant, C Ord, M Ord, I Patterson, S Ronchetti, C Simcox, L Twist, J Wallace, N Weatherley and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES: Councillors: C Bradley, L Caffrey, S Craig, J Graham, M Graham, M Hall, M Henry, M Hood, E McMaster, J Simpson and J Turnbull

A minutes silence was observed to remember the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

CL8 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD 27 APRIL AND 12 MAY 2017

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 27 April and 12 May 2017 be approved.

CL9 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) Award

The Mayor announced that the Council had been successful as part of the Institute of Civil Engineers North East 125 year celebrations and was awarded a special 125 Robert Stephenson Award for the Gateshead Millennium Bridge. The Bridge was voted as the best civil engineering project of the last 125 years in the North East by ICE members.

In recognition of this achievement the Mayor presented representatives from Communities and Environment with the award.

CL10 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL11 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted by members of the public

CL12 PROVISIONAL OSC WORK PROGRAMMES 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of its Overview and Scrutiny Committees provisional work programmes for 2017/18.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the provisional work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2017/18 be approved.

CL13 SEND POST 16 HOME TO SCHOOL/COLLEGE TRAVEL CONTRIBUTION AND REVIEW OF TRAVEL CARE POLICIES

Council received a report on the urgent action taken by the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance, in approving the SEND Post 16 Home to School/College Travel Contribution and Review of Travel Care Policies.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the urgent action taken by the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance, be endorsed.

CL14 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a revised calendar of meetings for 2017/18.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the revised calendar of meetings 2017/18 be approved.

CL15 REPORT FROM THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council reported on a number of key issues currently affecting the Council.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

CL16 NOTICE OF MOTION - ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY AND 2021 CENSUS

Councillor S Green moved the following motion:

“This Council notes:

1. That Gateshead Council has played a leading role in highlighting the needs of the Armed Forces community and ensuring these are met, resulting in local and national recognition for the Council.
2. The obligations we owe the Armed Forces community within Gateshead as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.
3. The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within Gateshead. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.
4. That the availability of such data would greatly assist the Council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within Gateshead.

In light of the above, this Council moves to support and promote The Royal British Legion's call to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community. We further call upon the UK Parliament, which will approve the final census questionnaire through legislation in 2019, to ensure that the 2021 census includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community."

On the motion being put it was declared to be carried.

CL17 NOTICE OF MOTION - ANTI -SEMITISM DEFINITION

Councillor N Weatherley moved the following motion:

"This Council notes:

This Council expresses alarm at the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years across the UK. This is one of the oldest, most persistent and insidious forms of racism and includes incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using anti-Semitic imagery. Criticism of Israel, like any other state or country can be legitimate, but not if it employs the language and imagery of anti-Semitism.

Council welcomes the announcement by the UK Government last December and other councils since, that they will sign up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism which is supported by the major representative bodies of the Jewish Community including the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the European Jewish Congress. This defines anti-Semitism as follows:

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Council hereby adopts the above definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism.”

On the motion being put it was declared to be carried.

CL18 QUESTIONS

The following question was received from Councillor D Duggan:

“Staff led mutuals for the provision public services offer many potential benefits, including democratising the workplace, and have been embraced by other councils. What plans does this council have to encourage mutual and advance the mutualisation agenda?”

Councillor M Gannon responded.

Mayor.....