

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 20 July 2017

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR P DILLON (CHAIR)

Councillors: J Green, A Thompson, J Adams, R Beadle, D Bradford, M Brain, L Caffrey, B Clelland, S Craig, W Dick, S Dickie, C Donovan, A Douglas, D Duggan, K Ferdinand, P Foy, M Gannon, A Geddes, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, M Graham, T Graham, L Green, S Green, G Haley, M Hall, S Hawkins, M Hood, L Kirton, J Lee, P Maughan, K McCartney, J McClurey, J McElroy, C McHatton, E McMaster, P McNally, P Mole, R Mullen, B Oliphant, C Ord, I Patterson, S Ronchetti, C Simcox, J Simpson, J Turnbull, J Wallace, N Weatherley and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES: Councillors: C Bradley, M Charlton, P Craig, D Davidson, K Dodds, M Foy, J Graham, M Henry, H Haran, J Kielty, C McHugh, M McNestry, M Ord and K Wood

CL19 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16 JUNE 2017

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2017 be approved.

CL20 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no official announcements.

CL21 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL22 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

CL23 CHANGES TO THE CABINET

Council was advised on the changes to Cabinet.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

CL24 SUBSTANCE MISUSE STRATEGY 2017-2022

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a Substance Misuse Strategy and action plans for 2017-2022.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Substance Misuse Strategy 2017-2022 be approved.

CL25 REVENUE BUDGET - OUTTURN POSITION 2016/17

Council considered a report on the revenue outturn position for the financial year 2016/17 and the appropriations to and from reserves.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the 2016/17 revenue outturn position of the Council as an under spend of £1.305m, subject to audit, be noted.
(ii) That the appropriations to and from reserves be approved.

CL26 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2016/17 – YEAR END OUTTURN

Consideration was given to a report that informed of the 2016/17 capital programme and the impact of CIPFA's Prudential Code on the programme.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That all variations to the 2016/17 capital programme be approved.
(ii) That the financing of the 2016/17 capital programme be approved.
(iii) That the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2016/17 have been breached.

CL27 TREASURY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Treasury Annual Report for 2016/17.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Treasury Annual Report for 2016/17 be approved.

CL28 IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCUREMENT PROTOCOLS

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for the adoption of two new protocols for Off Payroll Working and Trade Union Commissioning and Procurement.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Protocols be adopted and implemented across the Council.
 - (ii) That an amendment to the Constitution to provide for the Protocols be approved.
 - (iii) That training, linked to the Workforce Plan, be developed and that this be mandatory for all officers involved in procurement.
 - (iv) That approval be given to the Service Director, Corporate Commissioning and Procurement, to make minor amendments to the protocols and to dual badge them with the name of the Council and the Gateshead Housing Company, if appropriate.

CL29 REVIEW OF APPROACH TO TRADING AND COMMERCIALISATION

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of new arrangements to promote and advance an enhanced strategic approach to trading and commercialisation across the Council.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- That the management structure changes be approved, to be effective from 1 August 2017 or such later date determined by the Chief Executive, following further consultation with the Council's recognised trade unions and the Leader of the Council.

CL30 REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report to determine whether it is appropriate to take action to effect changes to the Council's current electoral arrangements.

Councillor J Wallace moved the following amendment:

'In recommendation delete "not" in the first line; in 2nd line replace "nor promote" with "and promotes"; in 3rd line replace "or" with "leading to a".

In accordance with Council procedure rule 20.2, ten Councillors stood at the meeting and requested a recorded vote on the amendment.

Councillors for the Recommendation:- R Beadle, S Craig, D Duggan, S Hawkins, P Maughan, J McClurey, C McHatton, C Ord, I Patterson and J Wallace.

Councillors Against the Recommendation:- J Adams, D Bradford, M Brain, L Caffrey, B Clelland, W Dick, S Dickie, P Dillon, C Donovan, A Douglas, K Ferdinand, P Foy, M Gannon, A Geddes, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, M Graham, T Graham, J Green, S Green, L Green, G Haley, M Hall, M Hood, L Kirton, J Lee, K McCartney, J McElroy, E McMaster, P McNally, P Mole, R Mullen, B Oliphant, S Ronchetti, C Simcox, J Simpson, J Turnbull, A Thompson, N Weatherley and A Wheeler.

On the amendment being put it was defeated.

A recorded vote on the original recommendation was taken.

Councillors for the Recommendation:- J Adams, D Bradford, M Brain, L Caffrey, B Clelland, W Dick, S Dickie, P Dillon, C Donovan, A Douglas, K Ferdinand, P Foy, M Gannon, A Geddes, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, M Graham, T Graham, J Green, S Green, L Green, G Haley, M Hall, M Hood, L Kirton, J Lee, K McCartney, J McElroy, E McMaster, P McNally, P Mole, R Mullen, B Oliphant, S Ronchetti, C Simcox, J Simpson, J Turnbull, A Thompson, N Weatherley and A Wheeler.

Councillors Against the Recommendation:- R Beadle, S Craig, D Duggan, S Hawkins, P Maughan, J McClurey, C McHatton, C Ord, I Patterson and J Wallace.

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The original recommendation was put as the substantive motion.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That it does not pursue a change to a whole council scheme of elections nor promote via a request to the Boundary Commission for England for an electoral review, or reduction in the number of councillors.

CL31 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/19 - 2022/23

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23.

COUNCIL RESOLVED -

- (i) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2018/19 to 2022/23 including the proposed MTFS principles be approved.
- (ii) That the outcome of the review to both general fund and strategic earmarked Council reserves be noted and approved:

- the remaining of the Development Pool Reserve to Workforce Development Reserve and the increased scope of the reserve to include training and development to support activity within the workforce plan;
- to increase the scope of the deployment of the Economic Growth Reserve to include culture, place shaping and the facilitation to housing growth within the Borough;
- creation of a new Strategic Revenue Investment Reserve of £4.206m from the £2.897m Airport Dividend and the £1.309m former Strategic Change Reserve;
- creation of a new Voluntary Sector Reserve using £0.500m earmarked from the general reserve to support development and activity in this sector; and
- creation of a new Anti-Poverty Reserve using £1.000m earmarked from the general reserve to mitigate the impact of poverty and social exclusion.

(iii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Chief Executive, will continue to keep under review and update the MTFS as appropriate to respond to Government policy and funding announcements.

(iv) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Chief Executive will continue to keep under review and update the Medium Term Financial Strategy as appropriate to respond to Government policy and funding announcements.

CL32 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2017/18 - FIRST QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report that informed of the latest position on the 2017/18 capital programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the first quarter to

30 June 2017. The report assessed the variances from the approved programme and detailed the proposed financing of the capital programme. The report also considered the impact of CIPFA's Prudential Code on the capital programme and the monitoring of performance against the statutory Prudential Indicators.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That all variations to the 2017/18 Capital Programme be approved as the revised programme.
 - (ii) That financing of the revised programme be approved.
 - (iii) That it be confirmed that the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2017/18 have been breached.

CL33 REVENUE BUDGET - FIRST QUARTER REVIEW 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report that informed of the latest position on the 2017/18 revenue budget at the end of the first quarter to 30 June 2017 and sought approval of a revision to the net revenue budget for 2017/18.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That the revenue expenditure position at 30 June 2017 be noted.
 - (ii) That an amendment to the net revenue budget for 2017/18 from £197.486m to £202.649m to account for the IBCF funding be approved.
 - (iii) That the administrative virements outlined in the report be approved.

CL34 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of changes to overview and scrutiny arrangements.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- That the revised overview and scrutiny arrangements as set out in the report be approved, subject to them being reviewed after six months.

CL35 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a number of amendments to the Constitution.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution as set out in the report, be approved.

CL36 REVIEW OF PAY PROTECTION

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for changes to the Council's policy for pay protection.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the proposal outlined in the report be approved.

CL37 CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO GATESHEAD'S SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report informing of the findings from a consultation exercise on the draft Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy and seeking approval of the final strategy.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the SEND Strategy and the key areas for action outlined in the report, together with its publication, be approved.

CL38 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.

CL39 NOTICE OF MOTION - ETHICAL CARE CHARTER

Councillor M Brain moved the following motion:

“Council recognises the crucial importance of maintaining high standards of domiciliary care. Council therefore commits to adopting stages 1 and 2 of the UNISON Ethical Care Charter, and to working with partners towards achieving Stage 3 of this Charter.

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

CL40 NOTICE OF MOTION - NJC PAY

Councillor M Gannon moved the following motion:

“This council notes that:

- NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012
- Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
- NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector
- Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage
- There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation

This council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. This council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

This council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representation to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking additional funding to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.”

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

CL41 NOTICE OF MOTION - COOPERATIVES AND MUTUALS

Councillor D Duggan moved the following motion:

“This Council recognises the important contribution that cooperatives and mutuals make to the North East, including a number of award winning enterprises like Care and Share Associates.

This Council believes that cooperatives and mutuals can foster democratic participation in the workplace and endorses the values and principles of the

International Cooperative Alliance.

We call on Gateshead Council to:

- (a) explore joining the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network and,
- (b) examine Gateshead Council's engagement with the cooperative and mutual sector in Gateshead and make recommendations for the sector's potential growth."

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

CL42 NOTICE OF MOTION - NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Councillor P Foy moved the following motion (altered in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.2):

"Gateshead Council is concerned at the decision by Northumbria Police to alter Gateshead Police Station opening hours to the public from a 24/7 service to 8.00 am to 8.00 pm seven days a week.

Northumbria Police has an excellent record of putting localism and neighbourhood policing to the forefront of their activities. However, we do not believe that these principles are reflected in these plans.

Residents in Gateshead rightly expect to be able to contact the police in time of personal difficulty. Residents attending police stations, at whatever time of day, have the right to expect that they will receive a professional service. This is particularly the case where members of the public are fleeing domestic violence, hate crime and human-trafficking.

The council recognises the enormous pressure on Northumbria Police that damaging cuts imposed by central government have had since 2010.

However, we call upon the Chief Executive to write to both Northumbria Police and the PCC to ask that this decision be reviewed, including full consultation with all stakeholders and an examination of all potential alternative options."

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

CL43 QUESTIONS

There were no questioned submitted.

Mayor.....