

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 16 March 2017

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR A THOMPSON (CHAIR)

Councillors: P Dillon, J Adams, R Beadle, D Bradford, C Bradley, M Brain, L Caffrey, B Clelland, D Davidson, W Dick, S Dickie, C Donovan, A Douglas, John Eagle, K Ferdinand, M Foy, P Foy, M Gannon, A Geddes, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, J Graham, M Graham, L Green, S Green, G Haley, M Hall, M Hood, H Haran, L Kirton, J Lee, K McCartney, J McClurey, J McElroy, C McHugh, E McMaster, M McNestry, P Mole, R Mullen, B Oliphant, M Ord, I Patterson, S Ronchetti, C Simcox, J Simpson, J Turnbull, L Twist, J Wallace and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES: Councillors: M Charlton, P Craig, S Craig, K Dodds, D Duggan, T Graham, J Green, M Henry, J Kielty, C McHatton, C Ord and N Weatherley

CL105 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY, 23 FEBRUARY AND 8 MARCH 2017

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 2 February, 23 February and 8 March 2017 be approved.

CL106 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) LGC Awards 2017

The Mayor announced that the Council had been successful in being shortlisted in three categories at the recent Local Government Chronicle Awards. The three categories were; Business Transformation, Housing Initiative and Public Health.

The Council won the Public Health Category for its Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document, and also received Highly Commended for the Housing Initiative award for its 'Taster Flats' scheme.

In recognition of this achievement the Mayor presented representatives from Public Health and Communities and Environment with the award for the Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document.

CL107 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL108 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted by members of the public

CL109 CHARGING AND FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT FOR ADULT CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a policy on Charging and Financial Assessment for Adult Care and Support Services.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the policy for Charging and Financial Assessment for Adult Care and Support Services be approved.

CL110 TREASURY POLICY STATEMENT AND TREASURY STRATEGY 2017/18 TO 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Strategy for 2017/18 to 2019/20.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Treasury Policy Statement and the Treasury Strategy be approved.

CL111 DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a revised Discretionary Rate Relief policy.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the proposed policy be approved.
(ii) That powers be delegated to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, to administer this policy.

CL112 REVISED APPRAISAL & DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a revised Appraisal and Development (A&D) Framework.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the revised Appraisal and Development Framework be approved.
(ii) That the framework becomes operational from April 2017.

CL113 LOCALISM ACT 2011 - PAY ACCOUNTABILITY PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for a revised pay policy statement.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the draft policy be approved.

CL114 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

CL115 NOTICE OF MOTION - RMT

Councillor G Haley moved the following motion:

“Gateshead Council welcomes that Gateshead passengers are currently guaranteed a safety critical Train Guard on board every Northern Rail train to assist in protecting the safety of the train and passengers, provide advice and assistance and to allow disabled passengers to embark and disembark at unstaffed stations.

Council is concerned however at proposals for Northern Rail franchise led by the Department for Transport and jointly managed with Rail North that could end the guarantee of a guard on every train by introducing Driver Only Operation on over fifty per cent of services.

Council believed Northern Rail should reach a similar agreement to those recently reached by Transpennine Express and Scotrail which have retained Guards whilst also introducing new modern rolling stock.

Council agrees to make representations to Northern Rail to reach an agreement with RMT that retains the guarantee of a safety critical guard on every train and demand from Government appropriate changes to the franchise agreement if that should prove necessary”.

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

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

Councillors Against the Recommendation:- R Beadle, J McClurey, M Ord, I Patterson and J Wallace.

Councillors Abstained:- Nil

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

CL116 SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURE RULE 9.1

Councillor Gannon moved that Council suspend the 6 days notice in Procedure Rule 9.1 to allow a motion to be dealt with urgently due to its importance and impact on many residents in the Borough.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That Procedure Rule 9.1 be suspended.

CL117 NOTICE OF MOTION - SCHOOLS BUDGETS

Councillor C McHugh moved the following motion:

“This Council notes with grave concern the recent Budget statement which confirms that the Government intends to continue with their proposed cuts to Gateshead Schools budgets, despite providing funding for new Grammar Schools which are an unwanted irrelevance for Gateshead. Education Trade Unions estimate that this could mean a cut of £6,990,424 to Gateshead schools by 2019 – an average cut of £301 per pupil or the equivalent loss of 187 teachers.

Council applauds the decision of Gateshead Head Teachers to write to parents informing them of the impact of budget cuts in their schools, and resolves to ensure that the wider community is also informed regarding this.

Council further resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling on him to:

- Ensure that the national funding formula includes an increase in funding for schools in poorly funded areas of England without cutting funding for other schools:
- Fund schools for the higher national insurance and employers pension contributions which are costing almost £1bn a year
- Protect funding per pupil in real-terms for the remainder of this Parliament.
- Take action to ensure fair funding for SEN/high needs and early years pupils and restore post-16 funding to previous levels”.

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

CL118 QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted.

Mayor.....