

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 18 November 2021

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR D BURNETT (CHAIR)

Councillors: J Adams, Anderson, R Beadle, D Bradford, M Brain, L Caffrey, B Clelland, P Craig, S Craig, C Davison, W Dick, S Dickie, Diston, K Dodds, C Donovan, John Eagle, K Ferdinand, P Foy, S Gallagher, M Gannon, A Geddes, F Geddes, T Graham, J Green, L Green, S Green, G Haley, M Hall, S Hawkins, H Kelly, L Kirton, P Maughan, K McCartney, K McClurey, J McCoid, J McElroy, E McMaster, M McNestry, J Mohammed, R Mullen, B Oliphant, C Ord, M Ord, R Oxberry, Reay, D Robson, S Ronchetti, J Simpson, J Turnbull, J Turner, J Wallace, R Waugh, H Weatherley, A Wheeler and K Wood

APOLOGIES: Councillors: C Buckley, M Charlton, A Douglas, D Duggan, J Gibson, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, P McNally and I Patterson

A minute's silence was observed following the death of former Councillor Kathy King.

CL44 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

CL45 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) Labour Appointments

Councillor Judith Turner will fill the vacancy on Personnel Appeals Committee.

Councillor Jen Reay will replace Councillor Dot Burnett as a substitute on the North East Joint Transport Audit Committee.

CL46 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL47 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

CL48 PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVES ON COUNCIL BODIES DEALING WITH EDUCATION

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the appointment of a parent governor representative to the overview and scrutiny committee that considers education matters.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the appointment of the Parent Governor representative be approved.

CL49 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

This item was deferred.

CL50 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 - 2026/27

Consideration was given to a report seeking endorsement of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2026/27.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2022/23 – 2026/27 including the proposed MTFS principles and the medium-term financial context be approved.

(ii) That the outcome of the reserves review be agreed and that the reserves balances as outlined in appendix one to the report be approved.

CL51 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - PERFORMANCE TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Consideration was given to a report informing on Treasury Management performance for the six months up to 30 September 2021.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Treasury Management Performance to 30 September 2021 be noted; to contribute to sound financial management and the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

CL52 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) -year Business Plan 2021-2051.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Business Plan 2021-2051 as set out in Appendix 2

of the report be approved.

CL53 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval to progress the implementation of the new HRA Asset Management Strategy, 2022-2027.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Housing Revenue Account Asset Management Strategy 2022-2027 be approved to support a statutorily compliant business plan able to fund a compliant, well maintained and sustainable housing stock.

CL54 APPRENTICESHIP STRATEGY & DELIVERY PLAN

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Council's Apprenticeship Strategy 2021-2024 and Delivery Action Plan.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Apprenticeship Strategy 2021-2024 and Delivery Action Plan be approved.

CL55 GATESHEAD COUNCIL SPEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for the Gateshead Speed Management Plan.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the final version of the Speed Management Plan and the measures contained within it be approved.

CL56 GATESHEAD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2021

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Economic Development Strategy for Gateshead.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Gateshead Economic Development Strategy be approved as part of the Council's policy framework.

CL57 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the proposed changes to the Council's

Constitution as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be agreed.

CL58 COMPLAINTS POLICY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of changes to the Council's Complaints policy.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the changes to the Council's Complaints policy be approved.

CL59 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2021/22 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report informing of the latest position on the 2021/22 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2021.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the revision to the Capital Programme be approved.

(ii) That the financing of the revised 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 2021/22 have been breached.

CL60 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2026/27

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Capital Strategy, as set out in Appendix 2, be approved to ensure that it fully complies with the requirements of good financial practice in capital accounting.

CL61 NOTICE OF MOTION - FIRE AND REHIRE

Councillor J Eagle moved the following motion:

"Gateshead Council notes:

- 1 in 10 workers have experienced 'fire and rehire' – where workers are forced

to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms and conditions or face the sack. High-profile disputes on 'fire and rehire' include large companies such as British Airways and British Gas.

- A quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions since the pandemic began. Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers (3.8 million people) were already 'insecure'. This means they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will, including those on zero-hour contracts and agency workers.
- While the Prime Minister has called the practice "unacceptable" he has continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice. In fact, the Conservative recently scuppered a Commons Bill that would have stopped the practice.
- This practice is outlawed in many European countries.

Gateshead Council therefore resolves to:

- Reaffirm its commitment to working in partnership with our employees and their trade unions and to always seek to negotiate any changes to terms and conditions of employment by agreement
- Seek to ensure that local residents are protected against unscrupulous employers, and agrees to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister demanding he outlaw fire and rehire and act now to keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions
- Restate its commitment to achieve high quality employments terms and conditions for all employees within our suppliers, contractors and partners through our existing procurement framework. We will seek to enhance this work with a request not to impose changes to terms and conditions without agreement.
- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and their well-being, work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward plans to ensure all have 'best practice' employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this
- Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People' and incorporate its promotion into the Council's Corporate Social Responsibility Pledge."

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

CL62 NOTICE OF MOTION - SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Councillor P Foy moved the following motion:

“Gateshead Council notes that:

In July 2016, the Council passed a motion re-affirming our commitment to combat racism and xenophobia in all forms and recognising the work of Show Racism the Red Card, over 20 years.

The motion stated that ‘We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Gateshead Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.’

Unfortunately, the last five years has seen a year-on-year increase in incidents of hate crime in Gateshead.

This year marks 25 years of anti-racism work by Show Racism the Red Card. We congratulate the charity on this occasion and thank them for their work here in Gateshead and nationally. Over the last 25 years, they have educated young people and communities, helping them understand all forms, causes and consequences of racism; equipping them with the skills necessary to be able to challenge racism and discrimination within their everyday lives.

Gateshead is a borough with a proud heritage of diversity and immigration into our communities, we seek to reassure all people within Gateshead that they are valued members of our community and society.

Gateshead Council resolves to:

- 1) Invite Show Racism the Red Card to address a future meeting of the Council.
- 2) Seek to ensure organisations like Show Racism the Red Card have support and resources needed to fight and prevent racism, anti-semitism and xenophobia, to enable them to offer their programme to every school in Gateshead.
- 3) Take unequivocal action to combat racism and xenophobia in all its forms.”

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

CL63 NOTICE OF MOTION - STRATEGY TO BOOST POLLINATOR POPULATION

The motion was withdrawn.

CL64 QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted.

Mayor.....