

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 23 November 2023

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR

Councillors: J Adams, V Anderson, R Beadle, D Bradford, M Brain, L Brand, C Buckley, P Burns, L Caffrey, B Clelland, P Craig, W Dick, S Dickie, P Diston, A Douglas, D Duggan, J Eagle, P Elliott, S Gallagher, M Gannon, A Geddes, F Geddes, J Gibson, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, T Graham, J Green, L Green, S Green, G Haley, M Hall, S Hawkins, K Henderson, G Kasfikis, H Kelly, L Kirton, J McCoid, J McElroy, M McNestry, J Mohammed, L Moir, R Mullen, B Oliphant, A Ord, C Ord, M Ord, I Patterson, S Potts, D Robson, S Ronchetti, J Simpson, J Turner, K Walker, J Wallace, H Weatherley, D Welsh, A Wintcher and K Wood

APOLOGIES: Councillors: D Burnett, K Dodds, C Donovan, P Maughan, J Turnbull, D Weatherley and Ramsey

CL47 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023 AND 26TH OCTOBER 2023

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

- (i) That the minutes of the meetings held 21 September 2023 and 26 October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

CL48 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced with great sadness that Alderman Gordon Spring had passed away. Council held one minute of silence to remember Alderman Gordon Spring.

Council recognised 5 members of Unity staff from the Teams Centre for their commendable work in saving the life of a service user. Council expressed its gratitude to John Martin, Mark Martin, Paula Marshall and Tara Farley.

Council recognised and commended the work and quick thinking of Anar Hunter, a member of staff from Care Call who performed lifesaving first aid on a service user before handing over to the emergency services.

Council thanked all staff being recognised for their quick thinking, teamwork and resilience.

CL49 PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

CL50 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Stephen Kelly submitted the following question:

“Councillors may be aware that a pedestrian crossing and adjacent ramp have been installed on Cushycow Lane in Ryton to provide access to the neighbouring new development of 283 houses. This has resulted in the loss of 6 car parking spaces for local residents. This was carried out without any meaningful consultation with the residents effected.

The ramifications of this action are far reaching and distressing to residents, especially those with a disability.

Affected residents were consulted on the planning application for the 283 new houses, and barely noticeable in it was the proposal to remove 2 parking spaces on Cushy Cow Lane. However, following approval of planning permission for the new development, the highway works have undergone a design revision as a result of a road safety audit process.

This has resulted in the loss of a further 4 parking spaces, but no further public consultation was carried out as the change was classed as a non-material amendment.

Has the Council assessed the impact of this decision on accessibility to people’s homes for those with a disability; what assessment has been made of the possible impact on the environment caused by the loss of gardens to car parking spaces; what impact will the loss of parking spaces have on congestion on Cushy Cow Lane and what alternative parking arrangements have the council considered for residents?”

Councillor John McElroy responded to the question.

CL51 THE GLASSHOUSE PRESENTATION

Council received a presentation from Abigail Pogson, Managing Director of the Glasshouse providing an update regarding the work of the charity.

CL52 CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2028 - THE STRENGTH OF GATESHEAD IS THE PEOPLE OF GATESHEAD

Consideration was given to the report seeking agreement of the Corporate Plan 2023-2028.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree ‘The strength of Gateshead it the people of Gateshead’ as its Corporate Plan 2023-2028.
- (ii) To agree to commence engagement on the Corporate Plan priorities for 2023-2028.
- (iii) To agree to receive an annual report reviewing performance against the agreed priorities within the Corporate Plan.

CL53 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2028/29

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2028/29.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29 and the medium-term financial context as reported.

CL54 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - PERFORMANCE TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Consideration was given to note the Treasury Management Performance for the six months to 30 September 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Treasury Management Performance for the six months to 30 September 2023 be noted.

CL55 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25 TO 2028/29

Consideration was given to a report for Council to approve the Capital Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree the Capital Strategy Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29.

CL56 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2023/24 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report setting out the latest position on the 2023/24 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree all variations to the 2023/24 Capital Programme as reported.

CL57 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report for the approval of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the proposed scheme as reported.
- (ii) To delegate powers to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to provide regulations to give effect to the scheme, including publishing full details online.

CL58 NOTICE OF MOTION - GO NORTH EAST AND UNITE INDUSTRIAL STRIKE

Councillor R Beadle moved the following motion:

“This Council notes the continuing damage being done to residents, businesses and those who travel to or through Gateshead for employment, study, or leisure by the Go North East Unite industrial dispute.

Council believes:

1. That the role of political leadership is not to take sides in this dispute but to seek its resolution
2. That the Council leadership should challenge both Go North East and Unite to agree to binding arbitration, including the option of pendulum arbitration.”

Councillor M Gannon moved the following amendment:

“Para. 1. Delete GNE. Replace with Go North East.

Delete all after Paragraph 1

Replace with:

Whilst recognising that the current dispute is between a private company, Go North East and its workforce, in which the council is not directly involved, we are concerned that the Gateshead Liberal Democrat group believes that the council leader should “not take sides”

This council supports that position taken by the leader of the council, which is firmly “on the side” of the residents of Gateshead and of the wider region.

In particular, we support the leader of the council’s repeated statements to both sides in the dispute to seek a negotiated resolution.

We further support the position taken by the leader of the council, in his role as chair of the North East Joint Transport Committee, to ensure that Go North East does not receive any further public funds for concessionary fares and secured services which are not delivered by the company during the current dispute.

We further support the representations made by the leader of the council, in his role as chair of the North East Joint Transport Committee, to the North East Traffic Commissioner, to use its regulatory powers to investigate Go North East’s failure to comply with its licence obligations and where appropriate issue sanctions.

We further support the representations made by the leader of the council, in his role as chair of the North East Joint Transport Committee, to the Rt Hon Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport, asking what action he intends to take to resolve the current dispute and deal with the failure of market to deliver bus services in the North East.

The current dispute clearly demonstrates that the current deregulated bus services, “free market”, model is broken and does not serve the public interest. Private operators serve the interests of their profits and shareholders, not the public interest.

This council calls on Go North East to put the interests of Gateshead residents and those of the wider region above those of the company and its shareholders and to resolve this dispute as soon as possible.

Whether through negotiation or arbitration, we call on the parties to resolve their dispute.”

The substantive motion was defeated.

On the amendment being put it was duly carried.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

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Replace with:

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CL59 QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted.

Mayor.....