

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 24 January 2019

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR J GREEN (CHAIR)

Councillors: J Adams, R Beadle, D Bradford, M Brain, C Buckley, D Burnett, L Caffrey, M Charlton, S Craig, W Dick, S Dickie, K Dodds, C Donovan, A Douglas, D Duggan, K Ferdinand, M Foy, P Foy, M Gannon, A Geddes, F Geddes, Gibson, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, M Graham, T Graham, L Green, S Green, G Haley, M Hall, S Hawkins, M Henry, M Hood, H Kelly, J Kielty, L Kirton, J Lee, P Maughan, K McCartney, J McClurey, K McClurey, J McElroy, C McHugh, E McMaster, P McNally, M McNestry, B Oliphant, C Ord, M Ord, R Oxberry, I Patterson, S Ronchetti, J Simpson, J Turnbull, J Wallace and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES: Councillors: C Bradley, B Clelland, P Craig, C Davison, John Eagle, H Haran, R Mullen, N Weatherley and K Wood

CL69 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2018

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

CL70 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Excellence Awards

The Mayor announced that Elaine Rudman, the Trading Standards, Licensing and Enforcement Manager, was part of the Team that won the Best Environmental Health Project award at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Excellence Awards.

The Mayor congratulated Elaine on her award.

(B) APSE Performance Network

The Mayor announced that the Council's School Catering Service has been singled out as the top performing school meals provider in the UK by the Association of

Public Service Excellence. This is the third year running the 350-strong school catering team has won the award.

The Mayor congratulated the team on their award.

CL71 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT - PRESENTATION

Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health, attended the meeting and presented her annual report, the focus of which is obesity.

CL72 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL73 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

CL74 ALLOTMENT PORTFOLIO - RENT REVIEW 1 APRIL 2019

Consideration was given to the proposed inclusion of the increased rental levels in the schedule of fees and charges for 2019/20 with regards to the allotment portfolio.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the inclusion of the increased rental levels in the schedule of fees and charges for 2019/20 be approved.

CL75 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20 AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given the proposed calendar of meetings for 2019/20 and proposed changes to the Council's overview and scrutiny and advisory group arrangements.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That the calendar of meetings for 2019/20 be approved.
 - (ii) That, where possible, meetings should not be held during school holidays
 - (iii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised, following consultation with the Leader of the Council to make any necessary amendments to the calendar of meetings.
 - (iv) That the proposed changes to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny and Advisory Group

arrangements as set out be approved and the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

CL76 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to:

- the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2019/20, including proposed savings;
- the proposed rent changes from 1 April 2019, in line with Government's policy on rent setting;
- the detailed proposals for fees and charges; and
- the proposed Housing Capital Programme for the next five years (2019/20 to 2023/24).

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Housing Revenue Account, including The Gateshead Housing Company. Management Fee, the repairs and maintenance budget and proposed savings be approved.
 - (ii) That the 1% rent reduction from 1 April 2019 be approved.
 - (iii) That the fees and charges schedule be approved.
 - (iv) That the Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2019/20 to 2023/24 be approved.

CL77 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2018/19 – THIRD QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to the latest position on the 2018/19 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators as at the end of the third quarter to 31 December 2018.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That all variations to the 2018/19 Capital Programme be approved as the revised programme.
 - (ii) That the 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 2018/19 have been breached.

CL78 REVENUE BUDGET THIRD QUARTER REVIEW 2018/19

Consideration was given to the latest monitoring position on the 2018/19 revenue budget at the end of the third quarter to 31 December 2018 and to seek approval to use up to £2.1m capital receipts to finance the 2018/19 revenue budget.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the use of up to £2.1m capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of transformational projects included within the 2018/19 budget be approved.

CL79 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

CL80 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor John Adams moved the following motion:

This Council:

(a) notes that:

- (i) since 2002, people seeking asylum have only able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List;
- (ii) people seeking asylum are left to live on £5.39 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation;
- (iii) the potential foregone economic gain for the UK economy of allowing people to work is estimated to be £42.4million via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation/subsistence support;
- (iv) 71% of people polled agreed with the statement: "when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process";

(b) believes that:

- (i) people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their

communities, and provide for themselves and their families;

- (ii) restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Gateshead and the UK;
- (iii) allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in Gateshead and for the local and national economy;

(c) resolves to:

- (i) join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim: and
- (ii) call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.

Councillor Kevin McClurey moved the following amendment:

Remove all after “resolves to:” and replace with:

- (i) Join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim, and to go further and call on the UK Government to give the right to work to everyone who has been waiting for 3 months for a decision on their initial asylum claim.
- (ii) Call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited three months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.

On the amendment being put, it was defeated.

The original motion was put as the substantive motion and duly carried.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

This Council:

(a) notes that:

- (i) since 2002, people seeking asylum have only able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government’s Shortage

occupation List;

- (ii) people seeking asylum are left to live on £5.39 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation;
- (iii) the potential foregone economic gain for the UK economy of allowing people to work is estimated to be £42.4million via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation/subsistence support;
- (iv) 71% of people polled agreed with the statement: “when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process”;

(b) believes that:

- (i) people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families;
- (ii) restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Gateshead and the UK;
- (iii) allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in Gateshead and for the local and national economy;

(c) resolves to:

- (i) join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim: and
- (ii) call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.

CL81 QUESTIONS

No questions were received from members of the public.

Mayor.....