

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 24 November 2022

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR D BURNETT (CHAIR)

Councillors: J Adams, V Anderson, R Beadle, D Bradford, C Buckley, P Burns, L Caffrey, B Clelland, P Craig, C Davison, W Dick, S Dickie, P Diston, K Dodds, C Donovan, A Douglas, S Gallagher, M Gannon, A Geddes, F Geddes, J Gibson, T Graham, J Green, L Green, S Green, G Haley, M Hall, H Kelly, L Kirton, P Maughan, K McCartney, J McCoid, J McElroy, E McMaster, M McNestry, J Mohammed, L Moir, B Oliphant, A Ord, C Ord, M Ord, I Patterson, S Potts, D Robson, S Ronchetti, J Simpson, J Turner, J Wallace, R Waugh, D Weatherley, H Weatherley, D Welsh and K Wood

APOLOGIES: Councillors: M Brain, J Eagle, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, S Hawkins, H Haran, P McNally, R Mullen, J Reay, J Turnbull and A Wintcher

CL51 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2022

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

CL52 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Labour Appointment

Council noted that Councillor Jill Green will fill the vacancy on the Joint OSC for the North East and Cumbria ICS and North and Central ICPs.

CL53 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL54 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ms Rosie Lewis submitted the following question:

“Can you please outline how the Gateshead Leisure Services Review Consultation will be assessed, what measurement and evaluation frameworks will be used and what weight will be given to each question?”.

Councillor Angela Douglas responded to the question and a subsequent question asked by Ms Lewis.

CL55 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 85

Consideration was given to a report seeking agreement to regard the ill health of Cllr Paul McNally as the reason for his failure to attend meetings.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That for the purposes of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the ill health of Councillor Paul McNally be regarded as the reason for this failure to attend meetings.

CL56 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the year 2023/24.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the proposed scheme as set out in paragraphs 8 and 10 of the report be approved.
(ii) That powers be delegated to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, to provide regulations to give effect to the scheme including publishing full details online.

CL57 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24 – 2027/28

Consideration was given to a report seeking endorsement of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023/24 to 2027/28 including the proposed MTFS principles and the medium term financial context, as set out in the report, be approved.

CL58 CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY ADOPTION AND CLIMATE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report seeking endorsement of the adoption of the Climate Strategy.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Climate Strategy be adopted.

CL59 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - PERFORMANCE TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Consideration was given to a report informing Council on the Treasury Management performance for the six months up to 30 September 2022.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Treasury Management Performance to 30 September 2022 be noted; to contribute to

sound financial management and the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

CL60 REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report setting out the latest monitoring position on the 2022/23 revenue budget at the end of the second quarter.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Council's revenue expenditure position at the end of the second quarter, as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report, be noted.
 - (ii) That the Housing Revenue Account Budget, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

CL61 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2022/23 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report informing of the latest position on the 2022/23 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2022.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That the variations to the 2022/23 Capital Programme be approved.
 - (ii) That the financing of the revised programme be approved.
 - (iii) That it be noted that the capital expenditure and financing requirements have been revised in line with the amended budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2022/23 have been breached.

CL62 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2027/28

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Capital Strategy for 2023/24 to 2027/28 to support the framework used to set and monitor the Capital Programme.

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

CL63 BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (BCE) - 2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES - REVISED PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report seeking agreement for the Chief Executive to respond on behalf of the Council to the Revised Proposals published by the Boundary Commission for England in its 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Chief Executive be authorised to prepare and submit a response to the Revised Proposals, making representation regarding matters highlighted in the report, following a Members' Seminar and consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

CL64 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Lynne Caffrey moved the following motion:

"Council notes that:

In 2010, Gateshead Council published a policy response to Climate Change. In 2019, as a response to the global Climate Crisis, Gateshead Council declared a Climate Emergency and agreed a strategy to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

As part of this strategy many measures have been adopted both internally and externally and we are pledged to:

- Making all our activities Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Achieving 100% clean energy across our full range of functions by 2030
- Ensuring that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions, are in line with a shift to Zero Carbon by 2030
- Supporting and working with all relevant bodies towards making the entire area Carbon Neutral within the same timescale

As a Council:

- We recognise that fossil fuel investments should be considered as part of the Councils Carbon Footprint and that we owe it to future generations to ensure we do not exceed the internationally agreed temperature increase threshold of 1.5 degrees C above preindustrial global heating levels, which is predominantly caused by the burning of fossil fuels.
- We have no direct investments in Fossil Fuel companies other than those invested on our behalf as part of Tyne and Wear Local Government Pension Scheme (TWLGPS)
- We believe the TWLGPS strategy of decarbonisation of their portfolio by 2050 (agreed December 2021) rather than divestment in fossil fuels, will not be sufficient to ensure we meet our carbon neutral target by 2030.

Whilst appreciating the TWLGPS is run by Trustees, including a Gateshead Trustee,

who have a fiduciary duty to protect the assets of the scheme in order to protect the pensions of beneficiaries, we believe this needs to include the long-term sustainability of the Fund's performance, which is at risk from "stranded assets" and environmental degradation.

We believe our request to the TWLGPS contained in this motion supports our Council Policy, our aspiration to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 and, the ethos of the Scheme.

This motion is simply an indicative vote as legally we have no powers to mandate the scheme Trustees, but we trust their judgment and their understanding of our need as a society to minimise harm.

Gateshead Council undertakes to:

- Re-state our commitment to becoming fully carbon neutral by 2030
- Write to TWLGPS and to Border to Coast Pension Partnership (their pooling organisation) to ask them to review their investments in fossil fuels, taking into account the latest findings of the International Institute of Sustainable Development, which confirms that no new oil and gas fields must be opened from now, if the earth's temperature is to be kept below 1.5 degrees C.
- Ask TWLGPS and BCPP to actively invest in companies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise climate risk."

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

CL65 QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted.

Mayor.....