



COUNCIL MEETING

17 DECEMBER 2015

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Jane Robinson, Chief Executive

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING – 12 NOVEMBER 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR A GEDDES) IN THE CHAIR

COUNCILLORS: J Adams, R Beadle, M Brain, M Charlton, B Clelland, B Coates, P Craig, S Craig, D Davidson, W Dick, C Donovan, A Douglas, J Eagle, K Ferdinand, M Gannon, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, M Graham, T Graham, JS Green, L Green, G Haley, M Hall, J Hamilton, S Hawkins, M Henry, F Hindle, M Hood, H Hughes, J Lee, P Maughan, K McCartney, J McElroy, E McMaster, M McNestry, P Mole, B Oliphant, M Ord, P Ronan, S Ronchetti, J Simpson, A Thompson, L Twist, J Wallace, N Weatherley and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES COUNCILLORS:

J Adams, C Bradley, L Caffrey, S Dickie, P Dillon, K Dodds, M Foy, P Foy, J Graham, J Green, L Holmes, J McClurey, C McHatton, C McHugh, C Ord, D Robson, C Simcox and K Wood

Reverend Brigitta Steele from the Methodist Church in Dunston gave the opening address.

CL/52 MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 September 2015 be approved.

CL/53 BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (BASE) AWARDS

The Mayor announced that at the National BASE Awards 2015, Sarah Bastow from the Council's Adult Social Care and Independent Living Service was successful in winning the 'Practitioner of the year' award. The award recognised Sarah's influential role within the Council's Adult Social Care 'in house' provider service of GATES and her work had enabled 28 people with disabilities to secure paid employment in the last 18 months.

In recognition of this achievement, the Mayor presented Sarah with her award.

CL/54 CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE ACCREDITATION

The Mayor announced that the Council's Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance Team had been awarded Customer Service Excellence accreditation. The accreditation acknowledges the work the service has put into its customer care and sends a strong message to Gateshead residents and potential commercial customers that customer care is taken very seriously.

The Mayor presented the award to Philip Hindmarsh and Kerri Brook from the Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance team in recognition of this achievement.

CL/55 FLEET SAFETY AWARDS 2015

The Mayor announced that the national road safety Charity Brake had recognised the Council's contribution to road safety with two awards at the annual Fleet Safety Awards:

Eco Fleet Award – this was awarded for the Council's work to cut fuel; bills, reduce carbon emissions and improve driver behaviour

Company Driver Safety Award (small fleet) – this was awarded for the Council's improved driver training programme, its driver risk assessment procedures and a number of safety initiatives that have been put in place to contribute to fleet safety

In addition, the Fleet News Commercial Fleet Awards awarded Graham Telfer, the Council's Fleet Manager was successful in winning the Fleet Manager of the year award

The Mayor presented the awards to Duncan Cairns, Steven Hayles and Graham Telfer in recognition of these achievements.

CL/56 ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE AWARDS FOR PLANNING EXCELLENCE

The Mayor announced that at the recent RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence, Gateshead and Newcastle Councils won a prestigious award for their innovative joint planning initiative for the Joint Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan.

The Mayor presented the award to Clive Gowlett, Chris Carr, Grant Rainey, Gayle Wilson and Neil Wilkinson from Spatial Planning in recognition of this achievement.

CL/57 PRESENTATION BY ABIGAIL POSGSON, DIRECTOR OF SAGE GATESHEAD

Council were provided with a presentation by Abigail Pogson, Managing Director of Sage Gateshead. The presentation provided an update on the work of Sage Gateshead.

CL/58 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted

CL/59 DIGITAL GATESHEAD

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of Digital Gateshead 2015 – 2020, the Council's five year strategy to develop and implement digital public services.

COUNCIL RESOLVED – That the Digital Gateshead 2015 – 2020 Strategy be approved

CL/60 VISION 2030 REFRESH

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of a refreshed Vision 2030, Gateshead's Sustainable Community Strategy.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the refreshed Vision 2030 document as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report be approved

CL/61 ROUTINE HIGHWAY INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE – REVIEW OF POLICY

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of revised policy for routine highway inspections and maintenance.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the revised policy for routine highway inspection and repair as outline in Appendix 2 of the report be approved

CL/62 REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND OF COMMISSIONING SERVICES, CARE, WELLBEING AND LEARNING

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the consolidation of commissioning functions across the Care, Wellbeing and Learning Service group into an integrated commissioning unit to be overseen by the Director of Public Health. The report also sought approval to associated changes to the senior management structure within the Group.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - i) That the transfer of the commissioning of children's and adults' services to the Director of Public Health from 1 December 2015 be approved

ii) That the Director of Public Health be authorised to make the necessary interim management arrangements for the commissioning of children's and adults' and public health services, pending the formal establishment of an integrated commissioning unit and the commencement in post of the new Director of Public Health

iii) That the deletion from the Council's senior management structure of the posts of Service Director, Children's

Commissioning and Service Director, Business Development & Commissioning be approved

iv) That the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing & Learning be authorised to make the necessary interim management arrangements for those functions and staff within the Children's Commissioning and Business Development & Commissioning Services not transferring to the Director of Public health, pending a further report to Cabinet and Council recommending a revised service group structure

v) That the proposal to commence recruitment to the post of Director of Public Health to allow for a suitable period of handover between the retiring and new Director

CL/63 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of proposed changes to the Council's Constitution.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved subject to the following amendments:

a) Article 16.01

Insert the following wording at the end of (i):
"following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition".

b) Schedule 2 – Non-Executive Functions – Delegations to Managers – Service Director, Development and Public Protection

The proposed change at paragraph (7)(i) being reviewed after 12 months; and

The deletion of the word "no" before the word "significant" in the reasons given for the proposed changes at paragraphs (7) h and i

CL/64 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015/16 – SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report informing of the latest position on the 2015/16 capital programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2015.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - i) That all variations to the 2015/16 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be agreed as the revised programme

ii) That the financing of the revised programme be agreed

iii) That it confirms 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 2015/16 have been breached

CL/65 REPORT FROM THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council reported on a number of key issues currently affecting the Council.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

CL/66 NOTICE OF MOTION

There were no motions submitted

CL/67 QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted

(NB: Copies of all reports referred to in these Minutes are available from the Minute File)

Mayor