

COUNCIL
21st April, 2011

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Armstrong, Baldwin, Burton, G. Cartwright, M. Cartwright, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Curry, Dixon, Dunstone, Galletley, Harker, Hartley, Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, Hughes, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Lewis, Lister, Long, D. A. Lyonette, J. M. Lyonette, Maddison, McEwan, Newall, Nutt, Regan, Richmond, Roberts, Robson, Ruck, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Stenson, Swainston, Swift, Vasey, Walker, Wallis and Williams. (44)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Barker, Davies, Francis, Freitag, Lawton, Lee, Nicholson and York. (8)

ABSENT – Councillor Jenkinson. (1)

62. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council held on 3rd and 10th March 2011.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

64. ORDER OF SEALING DOCUMENTS – Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

65. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Acknowledgement of Service – The Mayor announced that the following Councillors would not be standing as candidates in the Borough Council Elections on 5th May, 2011 :-

Councillor Roberts, with 35 years service;
Councillor Williams, with 32 years service;
Councillor Hartley, with 30 years service;
Councillor Robson, with 23 years service on Darlington Borough Council between 1972 and 1979, and 1995 and 2011, with 16 years on Durham County Council;
Councillor Swift, with 16 years service;
Councillor Ruck, with 16 years service;
Councillor Walker, with 12 years service;
Councillor Armstrong, with 8 years service;
Councillor Jenkinson, with 4 years service;
Councillor Dunstone, with 4 years service;
Councillor Mike Cartwright, with 4 years service; and
Councillor Barker, with 4 years service.

A total of 188 years service.

RESOLVED – That the cordial thanks of the Council be extended to these Councillors for the valuable service they have rendered to the Borough during their terms of office.

66. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public – There were no questions from members of the public.

(2) Members to Cabinet / Chairs – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

(3) Members to the Nominated Member of the Police Authority in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996 – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, to the nominated Member of the Police Authority, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996.

67. COUNCIL REPORTS – (1) Annual Report of the Standards Committee – The Assistant Director, Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to present to Members the Annual Report of the Standards Committee. In introducing the report, the Head of Legal Services introduced the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, who provided a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Standards Committee throughout 2010.

The submitted report summarised the work of the Standards Committee in 2010, and highlighted areas for improvement and outlined the Committee's programme of work for 2011.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee be received and noted.

(b) That the Members of the Standards Committee be thanked for the work undertaken this year.

REASONS – (a) To enable the Authority to receive information about the work of the Standards Committee.

(b) To enable the Standards Committee to advise the Council about how to improve public trust in the organisation.

68. CABINET REPORTS – (1) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members – The Leader and Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings.

Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

(2) Cabinet Urgent Decisions – The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing two decisions taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

The submitted report outlined the procedures to be followed if decisions were taken under the Urgency Rule and the Special Urgency Rule.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet be noted.

REASON – To comply with the Council’s Constitution.

69. SCRUTINY REPORTS – (1) Overview Reports – The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings.

(2) Annual Reports 2010/11 - The five Scrutiny Committees Chairs each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the Municipal Year 2010/11.

70. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.