

COUNCIL
21st July 2016

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Carson, Copeland, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Harker, I. Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, Johnson, Mrs. D. Jones, Kane, Kelley, Kelly, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lister, McEwan, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Regan, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, Mrs. H. Scott, Stenson, Storr, C. Taylor, J. Taylor, Tostevin and York. (38)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Cossins, Crudass, L. Hughes, Mills, Nutt, A. J. Scott, Wallis and Wright. (9)

ABSENT – Councillors Cartwright, Grundy and Lyonette. (3)

12. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council, held on 12th May 2016 and 19th May 2016.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

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

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

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS – (1) The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service - Café JJ - The Mayor announced that members of the Café JJ team had been awarded the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. The Mayor advised that the award is the highest that can be awarded to a local volunteer group in the UK, and that the reference on the award cited ‘Disabled volunteers working hard and using their skills to provide a service to the community’.

(2) Darlington and District Primary Schools Football Team – The Mayor announced that the Darlington and District Primary Schools football team had become national champions, and acknowledged the contribution of coach and main organiser, Paul Bielby.

(3) Colin Morris, Former Director of Social Services – The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dixon, to speak, and Councillor Dixon informed Members that Colin Morris, former Director of Social Services, had recently been diagnosed with a serious illness.

16. 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) Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and Darlington – The Mayor reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Darlington and Durham, had submitted his apologies for the meeting.

17. COUNCIL REPORTS – There were no reports to be decided by Council, which had not been considered by Cabinet, submitted to the meeting.

18. CABINET REPORTS – (a) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members – The 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.

(b) Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2015/16 - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide important information regarding the regulation and management of the Council's borrowing, investments and cash-flow. The submitted report also sought approval of the Prudential Indicators results for 2015/2016, in accordance with the Prudential Code.

The submitted report outlined the circumstances with regard to treasury management for 2015/2016. It was reported that investments were only made where there was low risk. It was stated that this manifested itself in a continued reliance on internal borrowing, which in turn had had a positive effect of the Medium Term Financial Plan's financing costs as investment rates were lower than borrowing rates.

The submitted report stated that the Council had complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements, and that the need for borrowing was only increased for capital purposes.

The submitted report stated that at 31st March 2016, the Council's external debt was £130.161m, which was £6.000m more than the previous year. It was reported that the average interest rate for borrowing was up to 4.18%, from 4.16% in 2014/15, and that investments totalled £32.000m at 31st March 2016, in comparison to £33.000m at 31st March 2015, earning interest of 0.57% on short term investments, and 1.24% on longer term investments.

RESOLVED – (a) That the outturn 2015/16 Prudential Indicators within the submitted report, and contained within Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2015/16 be noted.

REASONS – (a) To comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

(b) To inform Members of the Performance of the Treasury Management function.

(c) To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

19. SCRUTINY REPORTS – OVERVIEW REPORTS – The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings.

20. NOTICE OF MOTION – (1) The following Motion was moved by Councillor Copeland, and seconded by Councillor Newall:

‘This Council supports the Royal British Legion and PoppyScotland in their Campaign to ask the Government to ensure that questions on the Armed Forces community are included in the next UK Census, in 2021, as this information will help ensure they receive the care and support they deserve.’

The Motion was put to the meeting and carried.

(2) The following Motion was moved by Councillor Knowles, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. H. Scott:

‘(a) We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society, racism, xenophobia and hate crime have no place in our Country.

(b) We at Darlington Borough Council condemn these activities unequivocally and will work to prevent this escalating.

(c) We reassure all people living in Darlington that they are valued members of society and we have a duty to be good neighbours.’

The Motion was put to the meeting and carried.

21. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – Consideration was given to membership changes of the Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17.

RESOLVED – (a) That Councillor B. Jones be appointed to the vacancies on the Policy and Performance Committee, the Appointments Committee, and the Salary Review Group of the Combined Fire Authority;

(b) That Councillor S. Richmond be appointed as a Director of Vital Fire Solutions Ltd.;

(c) That Councillor Baldwin be appointed as Councillor Harker’s substitute on the Audit and Governance Committee of the Tees Valley Combined Authority;

(d) That Councillor Ian Haszeldine be appointed to the vacancy on the Independent Remuneration Panel of the Tees Valley Combined Authority.