

COUNCIL

29th September 2016

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Carson, Crichlow, Crumbie, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Grundy, Harker, I. Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Mrs. D, Jones, Kane, Kelley, Kelly, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Lyonette, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Regan, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Stenson, Storr, C. Taylor, J. Taylor, Wallis and Wright. (38)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Cartwright, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Crudass, Mrs. Culley, Johnson, Knowles, Nutt, Tostevin and York. (11)

ABSENT – Councillor Baldwin. (1)

22. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council, held on 29 June 2016, and 21 July 2016.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

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

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

25. ANNOUNCEMENTS – (1) Silver Employer Recognition (ERS) Award – The Mayor announced that the Council had been successfully awarded a Silver Employer Recognition (ERS) Award for 2016, for its support of the Armed Forces.

(2) Councillor Nutt – The Mayor advised Members that Councillor Nutt was recuperating at home following a small operation, and moved that the best wishes of the Council be extended to Councillor Nutt.

RESOLVED – That the best wishes of Council be conveyed to Councillor Nutt for a speedy recovery to good health.

26. 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 Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and Darlington addressed Members, and answered questions thereon.

27. COUNCIL REPORTS – (1) Shared Internal Audit Service – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Council of a proposal to create a Shared Internal Audit Service with Stockton Borough Council and request approval to proceed.

The submitted report stated that the Council sought to make savings in the provision of its support services in response to the financial pressures that it faced, with Officers responding to the challenge by considering different models of service delivery to reduce costs whilst mitigating the impact on service delivery. The submitted report outlined a proposal to share internal audit services with Stockton Council, which would enable savings to be achieved whilst future proofing the important functions that the service provides.

RESOLVED – (a) That the establishment of an Internal Audit Shared Service with Stockton Council acting as host authority, on the basis set out in this report, be agreed in principle.

(b) That authority be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Efficiency and Resources, to finalise the arrangements for a shared service partnership, including concluding the agreement for the delivery of Internal Audit Services to the Council by Stockton Council

(c) That authority be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Efficiency and Resources, to agree the commencement of the shared service (the target date being the 1 April 2017)

(d) That all powers necessary for the discharge of the Internal Audit be delegated to Stockton Council, with the delegation to come into effect at the agreed date of the commencement of the shared service.

(e) That the Assistant Director, Law and Governance, be authorised to make any consequential changes to the Constitution and Financial Procedure Rules that are necessitated by the above.

REASONS – (a) To enhance the resilience of the service.

(b) To contribute to the achievement of savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

(c) To build on the success of the shared delivery model with Stockton Council.

28. 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) Cabinet Urgent Decisions - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources, and the Director of Economic Growth, submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing a decision taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

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

REASON – To comply with the Council’s Constitution.

29. 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.

30. NOTICE OF MOTION – The following Motion was moved by Councillor Newall, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. H. Scott:

(a) That, in relation to the Better Health Programme’s review of NHS acute services across the Tees Valley and South Durham, Members of Darlington Borough Council are gravely concerned about the impact the potential loss of acute services at Darlington Memorial Hospital will have on residents of the Borough and the surrounding area in terms of timely access, detrimental effects on health and wellbeing and health outcomes.

(b) That, as historically, Darlington Memorial Hospital was built by contributions from local people and as such is seen as a precious resource by generations of residents; Members of Darlington Borough Council want to protect Darlington Memorial Hospital from any down grading and loss of essential acute care services.

(c) That, as Members of Darlington Borough Council believe that Darlington Memorial Hospital is best positioned to provide the full range of acute medical and emergency care for residents of the Borough, the surrounding area and those living in North Yorkshire, it expects the Better Health Programme review to acknowledge the critical importance of the Darlington Memorial Hospital and that it is named as a preferred option in the forthcoming consultation on the reconfiguration of services.

The Motion was put to the meeting and carried.

31. 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 Kane be appointed to the vacancy on the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(b) That Councillor Wallis be replaced on the Combined Fire Authority by Councillor Dixon.

(c) That Councillor Mrs. H. Scott be replaced on the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee by Councillor Tostevin.