

COUNCIL
20th July 2017

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Galletley, Harker, I. G. Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Johnson, B. Jones, Kane, Kelley, Lister, Lyonette, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Nutt, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis and York. (39)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Donoghue, Grundy, Mrs. D. Jones, Kelly, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Regan, Stenson and Wright. (10)

ABSENT – Councillor Cartwright. (1)

9. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council, held on 11 May and 18 May 2017.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – The Mayor declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the parent of a child who works at a school in Darlington. The Mayor also declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same, as the grandparent of four children who each attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor Carson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the grandparent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor Cossins declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the grandparent of children who each attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor Coultas declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the grandparent of a child who attended a college in Darlington.

Councillor Crumbie declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as a School Governor at Whinfield Primary School.

Councillor Harker declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the Chair of Governors at George Dent Nursery, a Governor at Reid Street Primary School, and a Director of Heighington Church of England Primary School and Bishopton and Redmarshall Church of England Primary School. Councillor Harker also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the parent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor I. Haszeldine declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the grandparent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor L. Haszeldine declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the grandparent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor C. L. B. Hughes declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the Chair of Governors at Carmel College, and as a Director of the Carmel Education Trust. Councillor Hughes also declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same, as the parent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor L. Hughes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the parent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor Kane declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the grandparent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor Kelley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the parent of children who each attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor Lyonette declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the Father in Law of a person who works at a school in Darlington.

Councillor McEwan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the parent of a child who would potentially be attending a college in Darlington.

Councillor Mills declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the parent of a child who attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor M. Nicholson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the grandparent of six children who each attended a school in Darlington.

Councillor A. J. Scott declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as a School Governor at the Education Village.

Councillor Mrs. H. Scott declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as a Director of the Education Village Academy Trust.

Councillor Storr declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as a School Governor at Heathfield Primary School.

Councillor C. Taylor declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 17 below, as the parent of a child who works at a school in Darlington. Councillor C. Taylor also declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same, as the grandparent of four children who each attended a school in Darlington.

NOTE: On 20th July, 2017, the Monitoring Officer had considered the number of Councillors who served on school governing bodies, worked in schools, or had spouses, partners or civil partners or family members who worked in schools, and granted a general dispensation, in respect of any disclosable pecuniary interests occasioned thereby, to allow full participation in the Motion at Minute 17 below.

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS – (1) Death of Former Councillor - The Mayor reported on the death of former Councillor Alwynne Smith, who had sadly passed away on 26 June 2017, and referred to Alwynne’s years of service, and roles on the Council.

As a mark of respect, Members held a short silence in memory of former Councillor Councillor Alwynne Smith.

(2) Queen’s Birthday Honours – The Mayor announced that Mrs. Morag Allan Coates had been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Young People in Darlington, in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

13. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public – There were no questions, with notice, 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, Crime and Victims’ Commissioner for Durham and Darlington – The Police, Crime and Victims’ Commissioner for Durham and Darlington addressed Members, and answered questions thereon.

14. COUNCIL REPORTS – (a) Chief Executive’s Appraisal – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that Members endorse the recommendation of the Appraisal Sub-Group in respect of the Chief Executive’s Performance Appraisal.

The submitted report stated that the Leader and Deputy Leader had met with the Chief Executive to review the Chief Executive’s personal assessment and identify objectives for the coming year, and that the Appraisal Sub-Group had subsequently met on 22 June 2017 to undertake the appraisal. The Appraisal Sub-Group reviewed the Chief Executive’s self-assessment and agreed the Chief Executive’s objectives for 2017/18.

RESOLVED - That, in respect of the Chief Executive’s Appraisal, it be noted that the Chief Executive’s Appraisal for 2016/17 has been satisfactorily undertaken by the Appraisal Sub-Group, and that there are no issues which need to be discussed in more detail.

REASON – To enable the appraisal to be confirmed.

(b) Darlington Borough Council 150th Anniversary – The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the forthcoming significant date in the development of the Borough of Darlington, and the proposals to mark this event.

The submitted report stated that on 13 September 1867, Queen Victoria granted Darlington a Charter of Incorporation, which was the foundation date for the Corporation of the Borough of Darlington, and enabled the election of Members, and the appointment of a Mayor. It was stated that the Centenary, in 1967, was celebrated with exhibitions, competitions and community events to mark the evolution of the town.

The submitted report also highlighted that 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of Darlington Borough Council becoming a Unitary Authority, once again assuming responsibility for all local government services, including social care and education. The submitted report proposed that the Borough should once again mark this event, in line with the Council's Corporate Objectives, and that this should be done in ways that celebrate the achievements and ambitions of business, the community and the partnerships that are in place.

RESOLVED – That Members note the forthcoming 150th Anniversary of the Charter of Incorporation of Darlington Borough Council.

REASONS – (a) The anniversary is a significant event in the development of Darlington as a town and district and important economy and worthy of recognition.

(b) As a growing Borough it is important that Darlington takes opportunities to inform and engage with communities and with business.

(c) The Council plays an important role in providing services and advocating on behalf of the Borough, and this should be marked.

15. 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) Capital Programme – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report to approve a 2017/18 to 2020/21 Capital Programme in relation to Council Financed Schemes, which had been previously proposed and agreed by Cabinet on the 4 April 2017.

The submitted report stated that Capital Expenditure is a significant, one off expenditure used to purchase or improve assets to enable the Council to deliver its priorities, and outlined that the majority of the Council's Capital Programme was funded from Government grants and from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It was stated that the Council can also supplement Government Capital and funding from its own resources, such as capital receipts and borrowing.

The submitted report proposed that an Economic Growth Investment Fund (EGIF) be created in order to enable the investment required to deliver Darlington's ambitions for sustainable economic growth.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Capital Programme for Council funded schemes be approved, including:

- (i) The 2017/18 Capital programme, as summarised in Appendix 2 of the submitted report;
- (ii) The creation of an Economic Growth Investment Fund;
- (iii) The delegation of the approval of schemes within the Economic Growth Investment Fund to Cabinet;
- (iv) Ring-fencing the NNDR received from the Enterprise Zone to Central Park.

REASONS - (a) To provide funding for capital schemes.

(b) To assist in the enablement of investments required in order to deliver Darlington's ambitions for sustainable economic growth.

(c) To ensure decisions can be made on a timely basis.

(d) To complete works required at Central Park.

(c) Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2016/17 – 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 2016/2017, in accordance with the Prudential Code.

The submitted report outlined the circumstances with regard to treasury management for 2016/2017. 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 2017, the Council's external debt was £127.161m, which was £3.000m less than the previous year. It was reported that the average interest rate for borrowing was up to 4.30%, from 4.18% in 2015/16, and that investments totalled £21.000m at 31st March 2017, in comparison to £32.000m at 31st March 2016, earning interest of 0.44% on short term investments, and 0.79% on longer term investments.

RESOLVED – (a) That the outturn 2016/17 Prudential Indicators within the submitted report, and those contained within Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17, be noted.

REASONS – (a) In order 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.

16. 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.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION – The following Motion was moved by Councillor C. L. B. Hughes, and seconded by Councillor C. Taylor:

Council is opposed to the government's imposition of real term funding cuts on schools by freezing per-pupil funding while inflation and the cost of employer pension and national insurance contributions increase. This affects all schools and academies alike. Without further funding, schools in the UK will lose £3bn in real terms by 2021.

This Council does not want children in this country to miss out on a decent education, supplied by dedicated teachers and support staff with sufficient resources. Darlington schools could lose up to £6,592,971. That equates to a loss of £492 per pupil and 176 teachers.

Council pledges to work with our two MPs Jenny Chapman MP and Phil Wilson MP, Chairs of Governors, head teachers and parent representatives to speak with a united voice to ensure that all parents of school age children and young people, and the general public, are well informed about the unprecedented dire situation of education funding and the attack on our local democracy.

This Council further pledges to lobby the Government in any way possible, despite the consultation period having formally closed, to ensure that more money is put into our local schools.

The following Amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Wallis, and seconded by Councillor McEwan:

'To delete 'real term' in the first line and all after 'schools' in the second line, and to insert the following:-

‘despite the Government’s partial U-turn on schools funding earlier this week; schools in Darlington are still detrimentally affected by the National Funding Formula (NFF).

Eleven schools across Darlington are still set to lose funding in real terms. The education of our children cannot be reduced to a postcode lottery and having a funding disparity, which the NFF causes, will do exactly that.

This Council pledges to continue to lobby the Government to ensure that no school in Darlington receives a real terms cut in funding.’

The motion would then read:-

‘Council is opposed to the Government’s imposition of funding cuts on schools despite the Government’s partial U-turn on schools funding earlier this week; schools in Darlington are still detrimentally affected by the National Funding Formula (NFF).

Eleven schools across Darlington are still set to lose funding in real terms.

The education of our children cannot be reduced to a postcode lottery and having a funding disparity, which the NFF causes, will do exactly that.

This Council pledges to continue to lobby the Government to ensure that no school in Darlington receives a real terms cut in funding.’

Following debate on the Amendment, a Named Vote of those Members present at the meeting was called for, and there appeared:-

For the Amendment – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Harker, I. Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, B. Jones, Kane, Kelley, Lister, Lyonette, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Nutt, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, Wallis and York. (35)

Against the Amendment – Councillors Crudass, Galletley and Johnson. (3)

Abstained – Councillor Tostevin. (1)

The Amendment was carried, and thus became the Substantive Motion. A vote was then taken on the Substantive Motion, and the Motion was carried.

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