

COUNCIL

23rd November 2017

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Cartwright, Copeland, Cossins, Crichlow, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Grundy, Harker, Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Kane, Kelly, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Lyonette, Marshall, McEwan, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Nutt, Rahman, Regan, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis, Wright and York. (44)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Coultas, Crudass, Galletley, Johnson, Kelley and Mills. (6)

28. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council, held on 28 September 2017.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Mrs. H. Scott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 35 below, as a Director of the Education Village Academy Trust, and as a Member of the Management Committee of Beaumont Hill Academy.

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

31. ANNOUNCEMENTS – (1) By-Election Results – The Deputy Returning Officer announced that, following the resignation of Councillor Lynne Haszeldine as Councillor for the Red Hall and Lingfield Ward on 5th October 2017, after ten years' service, a by-election had been held to fill the resultant vacancy. It was reported that this by-election was held alongside the by-election in the Mowden Ward, as previously reported, on 16 November 2017.

The Deputy Returning Officer informed Members that Councillors Marshall and Rahman were elected to represent the Mowden and the Red Hall and Lingfield Wards respectively, and welcomed the newly-elected Councillors to their first meeting of the Council.

The Deputy Returning Officer advised Members that Councillors Marshall and Rahman had drawn 'lots' to determine their position in the Order of Seniority prior to the meeting, and that Councillor Rahman had drawn Position 49, and that Councillor Marshall had drawn Position 50.

(2) Death of Former Mayor and Councillor, Beatrice Cuthbertson – The Mayor reported on the death of former Mayor and Councillor Beatrice Cuthbertson, who had

sadly passed away, and referred to Beatrice's years of service, and roles on the Council.

(3) Death of Councillor Paul Watson, Leader of Sunderland City Council – The Mayor paid tribute to Councillor Paul Watson, Leader of Sunderland City Council, who had recently passed away. The Mayor stated that Councillor Watson was passionate about the North East, and played a part in a range of significant projects and developments in the area.

As a mark of respect, Members held a short silence in memory of those who had recently passed away.

32. 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, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington – The Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington addressed Members, and answered questions thereon.

33. COUNCIL REPORTS – There were no reports for consideration at the meeting.

34. 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) Council Tax Support – Scheme Approval – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for 2018/19.

The submitted report stated that Councils are required to set a CTS scheme each year, and as part of that exercise they must consider whether any changes should be made to any existing scheme, and, where changes are made, consider what transitional protection, if any, should apply to anyone affected by those changes. The submitted report outlined the details of the proposed CTS scheme for 2018/19, which had been considered and endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 7 November 2017.

RESOLVED – (a) That the contents of the submitted report be considered.

(b) That the CTS scheme for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS – (a) The Council is required to publish a local CTS scheme for 2018/19 by 31 January 2018.

(b) The CTS schemes since 2013/14 have all been implemented successfully without any major challenges.

(c) The financial position of the Council has not improved and therefore the continued application of a reduced entitlement for working aged people is still appropriate.

(c) Corporate Plan and Performance Framework – The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of the Corporate Plan 2017-21, and the Performance Monitoring Framework, which were both appended to the submitted report.

The submitted report stated that the Corporate Plan was the overarching strategic plan for the Council, and detailed the organisations contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in One Darlington Perfectly Placed, the Borough’s Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), together with its own organisational priorities. It was reported that the Plan had been developed after the 2016 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), during a period of significant budget reductions and policy changes in many areas of service delivery, that the Plan was aligned to the four year MTFP, and that the Plan outlined the Council’s strategic service priorities over the next four years (2017/18 to 2020/21).

It was noted that the Corporate Plan was underpinned by a series of service plans at service area level, and that these service plans provided more detailed information on the key actions being taken to deliver the Council’s priorities, service context and performance indicators. The submitted report stated that the Corporate Plan and the Performance Monitoring Framework had been considered and endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 7 November 2017.

RESOLVED – That the Corporate Plan 2017-21 and performance monitoring framework as the Council’s key strategic document, which sets out the vision and priorities over the next four years, be approved.

REASON – To meet the procedural requirements, as set out in the Council’s Constitution, for changes to the policy framework.

(d) Cabinet Urgent Decisions – The Chief Executive, Director of Economic Growth and the Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing decisions 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.

35. 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.

36. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – Consideration was given to membership changes of the Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017/18.

RESOLVED – (a) That Councillor Storr be appointed to the vacancy on the Planning Applications Committee;

(b) That Councillor Rahman be appointed to the vacancy on the General Licensing Committee;

(c) That Councillor Grundy replaces Councillor E. A. Richmond on the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee;

(d) That Councillor Grundy replaces Councillor Donoghue on the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee;

(e) That Councillors Tostevin and Marshall replace Councillors Coultas and Grundy on the Place Scrutiny Committee;

(f) That Councillor Rahman replaces Councillor Regan as a Named Substitute on the Police and Crime Panel.