

COUNCIL

Thursday, 30 January 2020

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, Howarth, Howell, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Preston, Renton, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Tait, Tostevin and Wright.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Paley and A J Scott

42 **MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2019**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council held on 5 December 2019.

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

43 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

44 **SEALING.**

Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

45 **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Death of Ron Hogg, Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington, and Death in Service - The Mayor reported on the death of Ron Hogg, Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington, who had sadly passed away on 17 December 2019, and invited Councillor McEwan to address the meeting.

The Mayor also informed Members of the Death in Service of Keith Shield, and invited the Assistant Director, Transport and Capital Projects, to address the meeting.

As a mark of respect, Members stood and observed a short silence in memory of former colleagues.

The Queen's New Year Honours - The Mayor reported that Valerie Cadd, Chair of Governors at St. John's Church of England Academy, a Leader and Commissioner for Girlguiding UK, and a resident of Darlington, had been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to education.

RESOLVED - That the congratulations of the Council be conveyed Ms. Cadd for the receipt of her Award.

46 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE 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) MEMBERS TO THE ACTING POLICE, CRIME AND VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM AND DARLINGTON.

The Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington attended the meeting, addressed Members and answered questions thereon.

47 COUNCIL REPORTS.

(4) MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES REVIEW

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel appointed by the Council in relation to the adoption of a new Scheme of Members' Allowances.

The submitted report stated that the Independent Remuneration Panel had produced a report with recommendations in accordance with the Council's terms of reference for the Panel and included a wide range of issues and the Panel's reasoning for its recommendations. The submitted report recommended some limited changes to the existing scheme, which included an increase in the basic allowance for all Members, an increase in the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair of the Audit Committee, and the removal of some Special Responsibility Allowances for Scrutiny Vice-Chairs and the Chair of the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.

RESOLVED – (a) That the recommendations of the Independent Panel be agreed in full, with the exception of the recommended increase in the Basic Allowance to all Members of the Council.

(b) That the Basic Allowance remain at the current rate of £8,188 for 2020/21, and thereafter be subject to any annual indexation that might apply.

(c) That it be noted that the financial implications will be an overall saving of approximately £10,000.

(d) That the Members' Allowance Scheme, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be amended as detailed in (a) and (b) above, and be published accordingly.

REASON – To implement a new Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from 1 April 2020.

(5) COUNCIL TAX CALCULATION OF TAX BASE 2020/21

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to determine the Council's tax base for 2020/21.

The submitted report stated that, in accordance with Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the Council had to decide its tax base by 31 January in the year preceding that for which the tax base applies.

RESOLVED – (a) That the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2020/21, be approved.

(b) That the tax base for the Council and the individual tax base for the parishes, as set out at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASON - To comply with statutory requirements, enabling the Council Tax for 2020/21 to be set by Council in February 2020.

48 CABINET REPORTS.

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.

49 MID YEAR PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT 2019/20

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) on the revised Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and to provide a half-yearly review of the Council's borrowing and investment activities.

The submitted report stated that the Prudential Indicators were examined by the Audit Committee on 20 November 2019, and it was agreed at that meeting that the updated Prudential Indicators and revised Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for borrowing be referred to Council, via Cabinet, for approval. It was also reported that the Audit Committee was satisfied with the Council's borrowing and investment activities, the reported Prudential Indicators, and the revised borrowing limits.

The Prudential Indicators were set in three statutory annual reports to Council, and the submitted report followed the Council's approval in February 2019 of the 2019/20 Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy. The key objectives of the three annual reports were to ensure that governance of the large amounts of public money under the Council's Treasury Management activities complied with legislation and met the high standards set out in the codes of practice, to ensure that borrowing was affordable, and to report performance of the key activities of borrowing and investments.

The submitted report also outlined revisions to the Prudential Indicators in terms of a reduction to Operational Boundary to £185.498M, and a reduction to the Authorised

Limit to £194.773M to allow for any additional cashflow requirement.

RESOLVED – (a) That the revised prudential indicators and limits within the report in Tables 1 to 6, 8 and 15 to 18, be examined.

(b) That the over-spend in the Treasury Management Budget (Financing Costs) of £0.033m, as detailed in Table 12, 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 Local Government Act 2003.

(d) To enable further improvements to be made in the Council's Treasury Management function.

50 SCRUTINY REPORTS - TO CONSIDER SCRUTINY OVERVIEW REPORTS:-

The 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.

51 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER BODIES.

There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

52 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM - NOTICE OF MOTION - TO CONSIDER TWO MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. H. SCOTT, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR HARKER

(6) PROCEDURAL MOTION

The following Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs. H. Scott, and seconded by Councillor Harker:

That Council agrees, because of urgency, to suspend the procedural requirement of 7 clear working days' notice (Rule 22 and 106 of the Council Procedure Rules apply) and to allow motion concerning the relocation of Locomotion No. 1 (as set out below) to be moved and considered at the Council meeting on 30 January 2020.

Motion Carried.

(7) LOCOMOTION NO. 1.

The following Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs. H. Scott, and seconded by Councillor Harker:

This Council notes that, on 27 September 1825, Locomotion No.1 pulled the first train

on the Stockton and Darlington Railway. For more than 160 years Locomotion No 1 has been in Darlington and is regarded as one of the most important parts of the Town's railway heritage. With funding from the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the Council has major plans to create a revamped railway heritage quarter centred around the Head of Steam Museum. Locomotion No 1 is by far, the most important part of the Town's railway legacy and it will form the centre piece of the railway heritage quarter and the celebrations of the bi centenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway

Locomotion No.1 has been on long-term loan from the National Railway Museum (NRM) which is part of the Science Museum Group. The NRM has now announced that it is planning to relocate Locomotion No. 1 from its Darlington home to Shildon.

Council therefore resolves and agrees that:-

- (a) this Council is outraged by the decision of the National Railway Museum (NRM) to seek to relocate Locomotion No 1 from the Head of Steam Museum in Darlington and relocate it to Shildon;
- (b) This Council urges the NRM to reconsider its decision; and
- (c) This Council will use all and every means available to it to oppose the decision made by the National Railway Museum.

Motion carried.