

Council Agenda



**6.00 pm Thursday, 25 March 2021
via Microsoft Teams**

**In accordance with Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held on a virtual basis. Members of the Public can view a live stream of the meeting at:
<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/livemeetings>**

Members of the Public may submit questions to be asked on their behalf of the relevant Portfolio Holder. Questions should be submitted to Paul Dalton (paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk) by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 24 March 2021.

1. Introductions / Attendance at Meeting.
2. Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the Meetings of this Council held on 28 January 2021 and 18 February 2021 (Pages 5 - 18)
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Sealing.
5. Announcements.
6. Questions - To answer questions (where appropriate notice has been given from):-
 - (a) The Public;
 - (b) Members to Cabinet/Chairs;
7. Council Reports.
 - (a) Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022 – Report of the Managing Director (Pages 19 - 30)
8. Cabinet Reports.

- (a) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 31 - 34)
 - (b) Overview Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio; (Pages 35 - 42)
 - (c) Overview Report of the Adults Portfolio; (Pages 43 - 46)
 - (d) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 47 - 50)
 - (e) Overview Report of the Economy Portfolio; (Pages 51 - 56)
 - (f) Overview Report of the Health and Housing Portfolio; (Pages 57 - 62)
 - (g) Overview Report of the Local Services Portfolio; and (Pages 63 - 66)
 - (h) Overview Report of the Resources Portfolio. (Pages 67 - 70)
9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-
- (a) Adults Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 71 - 72)
 - (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 73 - 76)
 - (c) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 77 - 80)
 - (d) Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 81 - 84)
 - (e) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 85 - 86)

10. Notice of Motion

- (a) To consider a Motion submitted by Councillor Crumbie, and seconded by Councillor Newall –

Council believes:

1. The Covid Pandemic has accelerated the devastating issue of food insecurity.
2. Headline findings from a new report released by the Food Foundation states that food insecurity remains at crisis levels, with devastating impact on the most vulnerable.
3. Food insecurity remains higher than pre- covid levels, affecting an estimated 4.7 million adults (9% of households) over the last six months, compared to pre covid levels of 7.6%. 55% of those experiencing food insecurity an estimated 2.5 million) said it was because they did not have enough money for food.
4. Groups found to be at higher risk were People with disabilities, BAME households, households with children and food sector workers.

5. Although we recognize and welcome the holiday activity funds this is only a temporary measure and food banks and The Bread and Butter Thing are only masking the serious issue of food insecurity.
6. The UK Government must act now to address this for the long term. The UK Government needs to make food security a priority in the recovery phase. We must move away from short term solutions and prioritise policies that will address the underlying causes of this issue.

Council resolves to:

1. Ask the UK Government to conduct an urgent review of the current eligibility threshold for Free School Meals to ensure no disadvantaged child is excluded.
2. Request to the UK Government that a designated authority be appointed to be responsible for monitoring and tackling food insecurity long term.

(b) To consider a Motion submitted by Councillor Ali, and seconded by Councillor Wallis –

Council believes:

1. Fireworks are a traditional way of celebrating key dates such as Guy Fawkes Night, New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali.
2. Public fireworks displays at such occasions can foster a great community spirit.
3. However, it is well known that fireworks can cause serious trauma to some people with autism, war veterans suffering PTSD, and pets/other animals.
4. Fireworks are often set off throughout the year, often just for the purpose of causing a nuisance, and are even thrown at emergency service personnel on occasion.
5. Hi tech alternatives to fireworks, e.g. drone displays or lasers, can be an even more spectacular way to mark special events.
6. That the creation of a new Office for Product Safety and Standards, which will support local authorities in reviewing and enforcing the current guidance materials on the safe and responsible use of fireworks, is a positive step.

Council resolves to:

1. To ask Cabinet to consider requiring all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable

people;

2. To ask Cabinet to consider actively promoting a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on vulnerable people and animal welfare – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;
 3. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays as per RSPCA guidance;
 4. To back the RSPCA campaign to encourage suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display;
 5. To promote alternatives to fireworks.
11. Membership Changes - To consider any membership changes to Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies.



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

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

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Elections Officer, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays Email: paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk or Telephone 01325 405805