



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Council Agenda

6.00 pm

Thursday, 15 July 2021

Sports Hall, Dolphin Centre, Horsemarket, Darlington, DL1 5RP.

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting

1. Introductions / Attendance at Meeting.
2. Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the Meetings of this Council held on 25 March 2021, 20 May 2021 and 9 June 2021 (Pages 5 - 16)
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;
 - (c) Members to the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington.
7. Council Reports.
8. Cabinet Reports.
 - (a) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 17 - 20)
 - (b) Overview Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio; (Pages 21 - 28)

- (c) Overview Report of the Adults Portfolio; (Pages 29 - 32)
- (d) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 33 - 36)
- (e) Overview Report of the Economy Portfolio; (Pages 37 - 42)
- (f) Overview Report of the Health and Housing Portfolio; (Pages 43 - 50)
- (g) Overview Report of the Local Services Portfolio; and (Pages 51 - 54)
- (h) Overview Report of the Resources Portfolio. (Pages 55 - 58)
- (i) Partnership Working in Darlington –
Report of the Chief Executive
(Pages 59 - 64)

9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-

- (a) Adults Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 65 - 66)
- (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 67 - 68)
- (c) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 69 - 70)
- (d) Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 71 - 74)
- (e) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 75 - 78)

10. Notice of Motion

- (a) To consider a Motion submitted by Councillor McCollom, and seconded by Councillor Haszeldine –

This Council notes :-

- (1) The worrying official statistics published on 22nd June 2021 by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that show that hundreds more families in the North East have seen their benefits capped since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (2) In Darlington, 184 families had their benefits capped during February 2021, which was a rise of 56% on the same period last year. Households impacted lose an average of £62 per week.
- (3) Most families affected by the cap cannot work to escape its effect— as many are looking after young children or cannot find affordable childcare they can combine with work and single parenting. In fact, of the households impacted this year in Darlington, 133 were headed by single parents.
- (4) Many households who have lost jobs to Covid-19 are now subject to the

cap, even though in the pandemic it is much harder to find ways to replace their lost earnings and thereby become exempt.

- (5) The cap limits the total amount of benefits low-earning or non-working claimants can receive. Universal Credit claimants are exempt if they earn at least £617 per month (equivalent to working 16 hours per week on minimum wage).
- (6) Many families are earning their poverty as three quarters of children in poverty live in working families.

This Council resolves :-

- (1) That the leaders of all political parties represented on this council write a joint letter to our two MPs seeking their support for a review of the benefit cap policy aimed at people who could work but chose not to being applied to single parents with young children and those, through no fault of their own, have been impacted by the structural economic changes brought on by Covid.
- (2) That data is collected and made available to the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis highlighting the number of applications (both successful and unsuccessful) for discretionary housing benefits from Darlington residents whose benefits have been capped.

11. Membership Changes - To consider any membership changes to Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies.



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 7 July 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, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson,

M Nicholson, Paley, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Sowerby, Tait, Tostevin, Wallis, Willis 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