

COUNCIL

Thursday, 14 July 2022

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Clarke, Cossins, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Sowerby, Tait, Tostevin, Wallis, Willis and Wright.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Dr. Chou, Crudass, Layton, Lee, Lister, Paley and Preston.

ABSENT – Councillor Baldwin.

10 **MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 12 MAY 2022 AND 19 MAY 2022 (ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL)**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council held on 12 May 2022 and 19 May 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of this Council held on 12 May 2022 and 19 May 2022, be approved as correct records.

11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

12 **SEALING.**

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

13 **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Death in Service – The Mayor reported on the Death in Service of Donna Ward on 1st July 2022. The Mayor advised Members that Donna was employed as a Support Worker in Day Services, was a valued member of the team within Provider Services, and referred to her years of local government service.

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

Commissioning of a Portrait of the Queen – The Mayor announced that, in recognition of the Jubilee commemorations, the Council had commissioned a new portrait of the Queen, which was now located in the Council Chamber.

The Queen's Baton Relay – The Mayor announced that she had been pleased to welcome The Queen's Baton to Darlington earlier that day, as it was carried through the town as part of the country-wide relay.

The Mayor advised that the Baton, containing the Queen's message to the Commonwealth, would continue to tour the country before it ended its journey in Birmingham marking the start of the Commonwealth Games.

14 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN FROM):-

(1) THE PUBLIC; AND

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.

15 COUNCIL REPORTS.

(1) INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to conducting an interim review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations ahead of the Local Government (Borough) Elections in 2023.

The submitted report stated that the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983), as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, required local authorities to conduct reviews of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations within their local authority area, and that the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 subsequently outlined the timing of such compulsory reviews, with the next compulsory review due to commence within the sixteen-month period beginning on 1st October 2023. It was reported that a local authority may, however, conduct an interim review at any time, although it would still have to conduct a full review during the compulsory timeframe.

The submitted report outlined that number of previously approved Polling Places were no longer available to the local authority at the elections held in 2021, and that there were a number of new provisions contained within the Elections Act 2022.

It was therefore considered prudent to conduct an interim review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations during the Summer/Autumn of 2022, ahead of the Local Government (Borough) Elections in 2023, to ensure that suitable Polling Places are available, that all remain fit for purpose and can adapt to any provisions brought forward from within the Elections Act 2022.

RESOLVED - That an interim review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations be conducted in accordance with the review process and timescales as outlined at Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

REASON - To ensure that suitable Polling Places and Polling Stations are available, fit for

purpose and are suitable for any of the provisions contained within the Elections Act 2022, ahead of the Local Government (Borough) Elections in May 2023.

16 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.

17 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPD) DESIGN CODE - BURTREE GARDEN VILLAGE

The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise that the finalised Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Design Code Greater Faverdale (Burtree Garden Village) Design Code, with a revised text after consultation, was now ready to be approved and adopted by Council as Council Planning Policy, following approval by Cabinet on 5 July 2022. Members were informed that this would form part of the Development Plan and be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The submitted report stated that, at its meeting on 8 March 2022, Cabinet had agreed that the Draft Greater Faverdale (Burtree Garden Village) Design Code SPD should be published for wider consultation. It was reported that the Draft SPD Greater Faverdale (Burtree Garden Village) Design Code had been produced for the Council by DesignNE in coherence with the National Planning Policy Framework changes in July 2021 and in particular the National Model Design Code.

The submitted report outlined that the consultation took place between 6 April 2022 and 6 May 2022, and returned ten separate responses, which were summarised in the table at Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

Based on the responses and validity of the comments, the Planning Policy team had changed the context of the SPD in several places and asked DesignNE to prepare a final version to be sent to Cabinet and Council for approval and adoption.

RESOLVED – (a) That the comments and changes of the Draft Burtree Garden Village Design Code, based on the consultation period, as appended at Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the SPD for Burtree Garden Village Design Code, as appended at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be adopted as Council Planning Policy.

REASON - The Council has followed the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Inspectors final report to convert the Greater Faverdale (Burtree Garden Village) Design Code into an SPD and Council Planning Policy within 6 months after adopting of the Darlington Local Plan 2016-36.

18 CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS

The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the

progress towards the Council's net zero target.

The submitted report stated that following the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration in July 2019, a Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer had been appointed in late January 2020, a Climate Change Strategy had been adopted in July 2020 and an action plan had been produced and adopted in October 2021. It was reported that milestones had been developed and that these will be used by the newly appointed Climate Change Officer to monitor progress.

The submitted report highlighted that a trajectory of 30% reduction in the Council's emission every five years had been agreed by Cabinet in October 2021, that Council emissions for 2021/22 were 6,592 tonnes/CO₂, and provided an overview as to how emissions were reported.

It was reported that the Sustainable Darlington webpage and Sustainability and Climate Change intranet page had been updated and be used to share information with residents and staff.

RESOLVED – That the content of the report be noted.

REASONS - (a) As a public organisation the Council has a duty to meet its obligation in reducing its carbon footprint and achieve its net zero target.

(b) With increasing public pressure to act on climate change, the Council is at risk of significant reputation damage if it fails to deliver on our stated commitment to dealing with the Council's contribution to climate change.

19 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, and responded to any questions thereon.

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

Consideration was given to membership changes of the Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2022/23.

RESOLVED – (a) That Councillor Lee replace Councillor Brian Jones on the Combined Fire Authority Pension Board;

(b) That Councillor Bartch replace Councillor Keir as the named substitute for Councillor Durham on the Tees Valley Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee; and

(c) That that Councillor McCollom replace Councillor Wallis as the Labour Group Representative on the Police and Crime Panel.