



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Council Agenda

6.00 pm, Thursday, 23 March 2023

Central 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 Meeting of this Council held on 26 January 2023, 16 February 2023 and 23 February 2023 (Pages 5 - 20)
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.
8. Cabinet Reports.
  - (a) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 21 - 22)
  - (b) Overview Report of the Local Services Portfolio; (Pages 23 - 26)

- (c) Overview Report of the Adults Portfolio; (Pages 27 - 28)
  - (d) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 29 - 34)
  - (e) Overview Report of the Economy Portfolio; (Pages 35 - 38)
  - (f) Overview Report of the Health and Housing Portfolio; (Pages 39 - 42)
  - (g) Overview Report of the Resources Portfolio; and (Pages 43 - 44)
  - (h) Overview Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio. (Pages 45 - 48)
9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-
- (a) Adults Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 49 - 52)
  - (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 53 - 56)
  - (c) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee (Pages 57 - 58)
  - (d) Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 59 - 62)
  - (e) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 63 - 66)
10. Notice of Motion
- (a) To consider a Motion submitted by Councillor McCollom, and seconded by Councillor Ali –

**Preamble**

- a) Research carried out by Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty coalition indicates that two in five babies, children and young people across the North East (38 per cent) were living below the poverty line in 2020/21, after housing costs were taken into account.
- b) The North East has also continued to experience by far the steepest increase in child poverty across the UK in recent years, moving from being just below the national average in 2014/15 to having the highest rate of any nation or region of the country by 2020/21. Overall child poverty rates in the North East have risen by almost half – from 26 per cent to 38 per cent – in the space of those six years; during a time when child poverty fell slightly, by two percentage points, across the country.
- c) Within Darlington it has risen from 25.9 per cent to 39.5 per cent, and increase of 13.6 per cent; and in Sedgefield 23.7 per cent to 39 per cent an increase of 15.3 per cent.

This Council notes with grave concern that Government policy has failed to address the issue of child poverty across the UK, and in particular that child poverty in the North East has risen sharply.

### **Resolution**

Council resolves to write to our two Members for Parliament, Peter Gibson MP and Paul Howell MP:

- a) To highlight and express our concern of the continued and steep rise in child poverty within the Borough of Darlington, and the wider North East,
- b) To request that they call upon the Government to acknowledge that Government policy is failing our children, and
- c) To urge Government to review and amend policy such that the levels of child poverty are reduced.

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



**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Wednesday, 15 March 2023**

**Town Hall**  
**Darlington.**

### **Membership**

The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Baldwin, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Crumby, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, 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, Operations 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