



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Council Agenda

6.00 pm, Thursday, 28 September 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 20 July 2023 (Pages 5 - 12)
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Sealing.
5. Announcements.
6. Questions - To answer questions (where appropriate notice has been given):-
 - (a) The Public;
 - (b) Members to Cabinet/Chairs;
7. Council Reports.
8. Cabinet Reports.
 - (a) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 13 - 14)
 - (b) Overview Report of the Economy Portfolio; (Pages 15 - 18)

- (c) Overview Report of the Adults Portfolio; (Pages 19 - 22)
 - (d) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 23 - 32)
 - (e) Overview Report of the Health and Housing Portfolio; (Pages 33 - 38)
 - (f) Overview Report of the Local Services Portfolio; (Pages 39 - 44)
 - (g) Overview Report of the Resources Portfolio; and (Pages 45 - 48)
 - (h) Overview Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio; (Pages 49 - 52)
 - (i) Skerningham Garden Village Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Report of the Chief Executive
(Pages 53 - 236)
 - (j) Dolphin Centre Repairs –
Report of the Group Director of Services
(Pages 237 - 242)
 - (k) Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2022/23 –
Report of the Group Director of Operations
(Pages 243 - 262)
 - (l) Climate Change Progress –
Report of the Chief Executive
(Pages 263 - 270)
9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-
- (a) Adults Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 271 - 274)
 - (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 275 - 276)
 - (c) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 277 - 278)
 - (d) Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 279 - 282)
 - (e) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 283 - 286)

10. Notice of Motion

- (a) To consider a Motion submitted by Councillor McGill, and seconded by Councillor Coe

Council Decision Making Processes and the Scrutiny Function

Preamble

- (a) Both the Labour and the Liberal Democrat Groups are committed to the creation of a listening council, involving residents more in decision-making.
- (b) Councils work best when they are democratically accountable, operating openly and transparently, and actively seeking to engage local people, businesses and community groups.
- (c) In general, the decision-making processes of Councils can be difficult to understand for those not directly involved, and that an informed and involved scrutiny function generally leads to much better outcomes.
- (d) The Labour/Liberal Democrat Administration of Darlington Borough Council is committed to a review of how it listens to local residents and then takes decisions, promoting the best interests of the Council and the Borough.

This Council therefore believes :-

- (a) That work to fulfil the aims of this motion should engage with members of the public and partners from the private, public and voluntary sectors for their insights as to how the Council can achieve its objectives as set out above.
- (b) That the work should consider how the scrutiny function can be strengthened and involve the public in its deliberations. The Working Group should produce some recommendations for Scrutiny Committees. Such recommendations to be received by Council.
- (c) That there may need to be consideration of any potential savings and additional expenditure arising from the proposals of the Working Group.
- (d) That the findings of the Working Group would ordinarily be submitted back to Cabinet and then Council if there are any recommendations of formal changes to the Constitution.

Resolution

This Council resolves:

- (a) To establish a time-limited, politically balanced Working Group of Councillors, to consider how Council decision-making and the scrutiny function can be strengthened, involving the public in deliberations, and making recommendations to Council thereon.
- (b) That the working group will be known as the Scrutiny Committee Working Group and be comprised of 10 members (5 Labour, 3 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Liberal Democrat), with the members being nominated by the Group Leaders direct to the Democratic Manager.

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



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 20 September 2023

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Bartch, Beckett, Coe, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dillon, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Garner, Harker, Haszeldine, Henderson, Holroyd, Johnson, Kane, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Layton, Lee, Mahmud, Mammolotti, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Pease, Porter, Ray, Renton, Dr. Riley, Robinson, Roche, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Storr, Toms, Tostevin, Wallis and Walters

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Democratic and 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