

## COUNCIL

Thursday, 21 March 2024

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

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Ali, Coe, Donoghue, Lee, Mahmud, Mammolotti, Pease and Renton.

### **70 MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2024 AND 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council held on 25 January 2024 and 15 February 2024.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meetings of this Council held on 25 January 2024 and 15 February 2024, be approved as correct records.

### **71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### **72 SEALING.**

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

### **73 ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Death in Service** – The Mayor reported on the Death in Service of Kay Gamble on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Mayor advised Members that Kay was employed in the Transport Planning Team, was a valued member of the team, 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.

**Councillor Renton** – The Mayor announced that Councillor Renton had given birth to a baby boy on Tuesday, 19 March 2024.

**RESOLVED** – That the best wishes of the Council be conveyed to Councillor Renton on the birth of her son.

### **74 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN FROM):-**

#### **(1) THE PUBLIC;**

There were no questions, with notice, submitted 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.

**75 COUNCIL REPORTS.**

**(1) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S APPRAISAL**

The Assistant Director, Resources, submitted a report (previously circulated) which invited Members to endorse the recommendation of the Appraisal Sub-Group in respect of the Chief Executive's Performance Appraisal.

The submitted report stated that the Appraisal Sub-Group had met on Wednesday, 6 March 2024, and had given consideration to the Chief Executive's Performance Appraisal in accordance with the previously agreed process. It was noted that this was the third appraisal for the Chief Executive, and that he presented a statement reviewing the priorities he had been working on since the last appraisal in December 2022.

**RESOLVED** – That it be noted that the Appraisal Sub-Group had met to consider the Chief Executive's Appraisal for 2023/24, and that it was agreed that the Chief Executive would focus on the following key themes for the year ahead, namely :-

- (i) the budget position and financial challenges,
- (ii) implementation of the Council Plan,
- (iii) explore further partnering opportunities with organisations,
- (iv) continue to promote and deliver economic growth opportunities,
- (v) further develop the Council's culture, performance and staffing.

**REASON** - To enable the appraisal to be confirmed.

**76 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.

**77 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.

**78 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 2023/24 that:

- (a) That the Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults, and that the Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Children and Young People, be appointed to the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership; and
- (b) That Councillor McEwan replace Councillor Wallis on the Tees Valley Combined Authority – Education, Employment and Skills Partnership Board.