



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Council Agenda

6.00 pm, Thursday, 18 July 2024

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 Meetings of this Council held on 16 May 2024 and 23 May 2024 (Pages 5 - 10)
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Sealing.
5. Announcements.
6. Questions - To answer questions (where appropriate notice has been given from):-
  - (a) The Public; (Pages 11 - 16)
  - (b) Members to Cabinet/Chairs;
7. Council Reports.
  - (a) Review of Political Balance - Changes to Committee Membership – Report of the Group Director of Operations (Pages 17 - 22)
8. Cabinet Reports.
  - (a) Darlington Council Plan 2024-2027 – Report of the Chief Officers Executive (Pages 23 -

66)

- (b) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 67 - 70)
  - (c) Overview Report of the Economy Portfolio; (Pages 71 - 76)
  - (d) Overview Report of the Adults Portfolio; (Pages 77 - 78)
  - (e) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 79 - 88)
  - (f) Overview Report of the Health and Housing Portfolio; (Pages 89 - 94)
  - (g) Overview Report of the Local Services Portfolio; (Pages 95 - 100)
  - (h) Overview Report of the Resources Portfolio; and (Pages 101 - 106)
  - (i) Overview Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio; (Pages 107 - 110)
  - (j) Cabinet Urgent Decisions – Report of the Chief Officers Executive (Pages 111 - 114)
9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-
- (a) Adults Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 115 - 116)
  - (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 117 - 118)
  - (c) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 119 - 120)
  - (d) Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 121 - 122)
  - (e) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 123 - 126)

10. Motions of Notice

- (a) To consider a Motion submitted by Councillor Snedker and seconded by Councillor Lawley –

**Opposing Minimum Service Levels**

That this Council:

(a) notes:

- (i) the right to strike is a fundamental British freedom which is protected by international law; this can be seen in the Human Rights Act, Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation's Convention 87 and Article 6(4) of the European Social Charter;

(ii) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 sets out that when employees in relevant sectors democratically vote to strike they can be required to work by use of a “work notice” and sacked if they don’t comply; and

(iii) the Joint Committee on Human Rights has expressed concern that this legislation is not compatible with the UK’s commitments to human rights for workers and trade union members;

(b) believes:

(i) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is a direct attack on the right to strike, a fundamental freedom;

(ii) the Act undermines constructive industrial relations and is likely to inflame and prolong disputes;

(iii) the regime initiated by the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023, including the provision allowing employers to issue a “work notice” is draconian, unnecessary and unworkable;

(iv) the issuing of a “work notice” by an employer compelling named workers to attend work under threat of dismissal with no recourse to the courts is a denial of justice; and

(v) that this Act is a direct attack on the freedoms of the ordinary, hardworking residents of our borough;

(c) resolves:

(i) to not issue a “work notice” - because, if issued a “work notice”, would deny its staff the opportunity to exercise a fundamental human right, the right to go on strike, the Council is an upholder of human rights for residents and workers in the borough; and

(ii) to work with unions in the borough/district/city, especially those in the school and college sector, municipal transport and fire and rescue services to oppose this legislation;

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



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

**Wednesday, 10 July 2024**

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

**Membership**

The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Bartch, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dillon, 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, 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](mailto:paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk) or Telephone 01325 405805